Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-028
Thursday
11 February 1988

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-028 *11 February 1988*

CONTENTS

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Area Nations Criticize U.S. at Rights Meeting 1
Rodriguez Meets With Ethiopian, W. Saharan 1
Risquet Meets With W. Saharan Ministers 1

Bermuda

House Votes for Talks on Independence 1

Haiti

Major General Regala Resigns From Armed Forces 2
Leslie Manigat Delivers Inaugural Address 2
Reactions to President Manigat's Inauguration 7
Opposition Comments 7
Bazin: Wants Deeds Not Words 8
MDN: Speech Shows 'Contempt' 9
Gourgue: Speech 'Shocking' 10
Theologian: 'Pretty Words' 10
New Prime Minister's Career Outlined 11
Priest States Readiness To Combat Government 12
Anti-Election Petitions Cause Arrests 12

Trinidad and Tobago

Basdeo, Tewarie, Sanderson Take Oaths 12
Reaction To Cabinet Changes 13

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

FDR's Ungo Urges Resumption of Dialogue 15

Honduras

Foreign Minister on U.S. Policy, Contras 16

Nicaragua

FSLN, Contra Talks 'Confirmed' for 18 Feb *[DPA]* 17
Managua Cites UPI on Contra Withdrawal 17
Further on Masaya Antidraft Protests, Unrest 17
Official Blames U.S. Embassy 17
Demonstrators Renew Protests *[AFP]* 18
50 Reportedly Arrested *[DPA]* 18
City 'Practically Under Siege' 19
'Traitor' Pastora Said To Return in August 19
Ortega Says Contras 'Not Interested in Peace' *[Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER 2 Feb]* 19
Military Airport's Construction Reportedly Set *[LA PRENSA 5 Feb]* 20

Panama

Noriega Speaks at Chiriqui on Southern Command 20
10 Feb Communique on U.S. Southcom Presence 23
Abadia Says Ties With U.S. at 'Low Point' 24
Students Reportedly Demonstrating, Teargassed 24
500 Students Said Involved *[AFP]* 24
Government Minister on Media Censorship 24
Paredes Says Noriega Has 'Psychic Deformities' 25
PRD Leaders Express Support for Noriega 25
Official on Coup Possibility *[EXTRA 11 Feb]* 26
PDC Leader Reacts to Noriega Speech *[LA PRENSA 10 Feb]* 26
PDC Opposes 1989 Elections 27
Business Leader on Plans for General Strike *[EXTRA 10 Feb]* 27
Civic Crusade Sends Letter to Noriega *[LA PRENSA 10 Feb]* 27
PALA Leader on Noriega's Anti-U.S. Stand *[MATUTINO 10 Feb]* 28
Commentary Decries Accusations Against Noriega 28
Labor Minister on 1988 Unemployment Situation 29

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Caridi Removes Joint Staff Operations Chief 30
General Views Army Situation 30
Army Officer Goes Underground, Supports Rico 31
CNEA Denies FRG Supplied Uranium 31

Bolivia

Official Views Problems in Fighting Drugs *[EFE]* 31
Directorate Reports Coca Eradication Figures *[PRESENCIA 28 Jan]* 32
Pipeline 'Mishap' Cuts Exports to Argentina 32

Brazil

Sarney, Ministers Study U.S. Commercial Ties 32
Minister on U.S. 'Threats' 32
Joint Statement, Accords Signed With Colombia 33
President's Trips Abroad To Be Limited 33
Abreu Sodre Interviewed on Foreign Policy *[O GLOBO 7 Feb]* 34
New Treasury Secretary Sets Deficit Target *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 9 Feb]* 35
Army Steps In To Control Minas Railway Strike *[EFE]* 36

Chile

U.S. State Department Report 'Under Study' 36
U.S. Request in Letelier Case Stalled 36
PDC Leader on Plebiscite, Pinochet Candidacy *[EFE]* 36
Socialist Leader on Importance of 'No' Vote 37
Codelco Head on Use of Funds, Dismissals 37
PDC 'Militant' Youths Detained, Released *[EFE]* 37
Police Arrest 3 Alleged FPMR Terrorists 37
Communist's Request To Live in Country Rejected 38
Ambassador Cited on Antarctic Convention *[EL MERCURIO 5 Feb]* 38

Colombia

Brazilian President Arrives for Visit 38
Cubans Reportedly Active in FARC, ELN *[EL SIGLO 30 Jan]* 38
ELN Sabotages Cano Limon-Covenas Pipeline 39

Ecuador

Democratic Party To Support Candidate Borja 39
Parties Seeking Alliances for Elections 39

Paraguay

Archbishopric Issues Declaration on Church Role *[LA TARDE 6 Feb]* 39
Opposition Holds 'Lightning Demonstration' *[ULTIMA HORA 10 Feb]* 40
Capt Ortigoza Reportedly Under House Arrest 40
News Conference Called 40

Suriname

Changes to Development Treaty Rejected 41

Cuba

Area Nations Criticize U.S. at Rights Meeting

FL100526 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Argentina, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Cuba today defended self-determination of nations at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva.

The four Latin American nations referred to colonialism, apartheid, and foreign occupation during their 2d day of debates on human rights. These are matters which the United States has ignored.

Argentina, Mexico, and Nicaragua said that the United States has limited itself to accusations against Cuba, a country which is not even included in the agenda agreed upon by the UN Human Rights Commission.

Rodriguez Meets With Ethiopian, W. Saharan

FL102005 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received in Havana Amanuel Amde Michael, member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Politburo and vice president of that country. During the meeting, which was held in a warm and fraternal atmosphere, the two leaders exchanged experiences on the revolutionary processes taking place in their respective countries.

Yesterday, the Cuban leader also held friendly talks with Mansour Omar, member of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio Oro], and foreign minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. They discussed matters related to the present inter-regional political situation, the heroic struggle being waged by the Western Saharan people, and the development of relations between the two countries.

Risquet Meets With W. Saharan Ministers

FL102022 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, met yesterday with Mansour Omar, foreign minister, and Seyyed Ahmad Batal, education minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. They are both members of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Politburo. The status of bilateral relations was examined and the full understanding and close cooperation ties that exist between the PCC and the Polisario Front were noted during the fraternal meeting.

Bermuda

House Votes for Talks on Independence

FL011443 Bridgetown CANA in English 1547 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan 31, CANA—The Bermuda Government has gained the mandate it wanted to press ahead with its plans to find out more about independence for this affluent British colony. Premier John Swan succeeded in holding all his backbenchers together and the whole of the ruling United Bermuda Party (UBP) voted in favour of his motion in the House of Assembly seeking talks with Canada and the United States. The final vote was 28-9 in favour of the Swan motion with all opposition members voting against.

Opposition arguments on Friday that the move was unconstitutional and that an all-party joint select committee should be set up to draw up an agenda on independence were conclusively thrown out. Now the Bermuda Government will ask the British Government for permission to begin the talks which could eventually lead this 21-square mile Atlantic Ocean resort island of 56,000 people down the path to independence.

The final motion as accepted by the House was slightly amended. Swan, who is privately known to favour independence, started the eight-hour debate by making changes which were accepted. It eventually read: That, in order that the government obtain all relevant information so as better to inform the people of Bermuda on the issue of independence, this House approves the government having discussions with the United Kingdom Government and seeking their authority to discuss with the Governments of the United States of America and Canada, those matters which under the Constitution are presently reserved to the Government of the United Kingdom. Swan and other Cabinet ministers reiterated throughout the debate, in which 27 MP's spoke, that government has not taken an official stance on independence and will not unless the public votes for it. Opinion polls in the past have strongly opposed independence.

The principal aim of this motion is not to promote the idea of independence for Bermuda, Swan told the chamber. Rather it is sensibly and realistically to examine with overseas governments concerned, the ways in which those matters currently reserved to the British Government might be completely administered by the Bermuda Government. He added: Bermuda doesn't want to rush into this. We are purely seeking information. We want to explore and look at options so that whatever decision it makes best facilitates its requirements.

The opposition Progressive Labour Party (PLP) complained the move was unconstitutional as any changes should be agreed between all three parties. Shadow Home Affairs Minister Lois Browne Evans said the only acceptable move would be for all parties to sit down with

the British Government and work out changes. Opposition leader Frederick Wade said: We have put the cart before the horse. There ought to be a decision first made by Bermudians.

This is the first time we have ever had a government trying to go off alone and negotiate constitutional reform without referring to other political parties. The opposition National Liberal Party supported the PLP's call for a joint committee. Leader Gilbert Darrell claimed government was now well on its way towards independence.

All the premier must do is bring another motion. No one will vote against it. It's frightening, he said. But in winding up, Swan said the big debate was still to come. We are quite a way back in the process, he said. The issue is really not independence; the issue is the benefits of independence—economic, cultural and social.

Haiti

Major General Regala Resigns From Armed Forces

FL110014 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2300 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Major General Williams Regala was today released from the ranks of the Haitian Armed Forces at his express request. This was announced in a communique from the General Headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces.

The decision comes approximately 24 hours before the formation of the new Haitian Government. According to sources close to the president, General Regala will be named minister of Interior and National Defense in the new government.

Leslie Manigat Delivers Inaugural Address

FL100219 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1605 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Speech by Leslie Manigat during presidential inaugural ceremony on 7 February in front of Port-au-Prince's Legislative Palace—live]

[Text] Mr President of the National Assembly, Mr Vice President of the National Assembly, honorable members of the executive committee of the National Assembly, honorable senators and deputies of the Republic, ladies and gentlemen representatives of friendly nations and of international organizations and institutions, ladies and gentlemen members of the major national institutions, brothers and sisters of this well-loved fatherland: [applause]

In the cultures from which our culture stems—I refer to both ancient Greece and the villages of Africa—from time immemorial, the people have assembled in the public square to deliberate in search of the common good. People gathered in the public square to consult together about public matters. And here we are today, gathered in the public square, in front of the house of the people, which the public square on this occasion replaces, to celebrate the land of Haiti as this land prepares itself to receive the seeds of freedoms recovered.

It was to fall to you, Mr President of the National Assembly, and to me, the democratically-elected president of the Republic [applause], two men of the same generation, as you just said, and old friends to boot—and were it not for the solemnity of the occasion I would have said old accomplices— who have shared the same democratic ideal throughout both our university careers, to be invited, through the confidence of the masses, to preside over the fruitful dialogue which the executive branch and the legislative branch of government are henceforth undertaking on this 1st day of the year 1 of democracy, in solidary unity on the part of all the sons of a single well-loved country. [applause] Let us thank God for this, because this is truly not a commonplace event.

Fate has determined that it was to be through my humble person that the joy and thrill of all the people at finally having arrived at journey's end—certain phases of which almost threatened the very existence of a nation arriving at the promised land—was to be expressed.

Fate has determined that it would be my lowly voice which would express all the people's gratitude at seeing themselves supported by so many high-ranking, friendly, foreign delegations from all continents—from the neighboring Dominican Republic and fraternal Latin America as well as from farthest Asia and Africa, which are becoming ever dearer to us, and from the traditional Europe, to which we are bound by so many ties—as they cross the finish line, exhausted—but as radiant as the morning sun—after a wild race toward freedom which at times was almost in vain. [faint applause]

Fate has determined that the people's choice—the expression of deepest Haiti, of their suffering and their hopes—was to be the democratic, nationalistic, and progressive candidate, so that he might become the assembler of all the people, the president of all Haitians without discrimination and without exclusivity [applause]. This is a remarkable honor and a formidable responsibility.

There is no doubt about it: For the men whom circumstances have set in place to create history, days follow one another, but do not resemble one another. Indeed, this day of 7 February 1988, heavy with the national expectation of change toward a better tomorrow for all, will constitute an interruption come to disrupt the life of a 57-year-old academic with a 33-year-long career to entrust him with presiding over the beginning of a new era in the historic evolution of our people.

For us, this 7 February 1988, because it is so rich in (?events of significance for the future) illustrates better than any other recent date Seneca's statement that every day is unto itself a lifetime. Because—I repeat—today's

event is unprecedented in the annals of our history. This great beginning of open-air democracy under the auspices of a National Assembly in the process of becoming one of the august pillars of the nascent democracy, as the words of its president so eloquently allow us to hope, this event, makes a reality the prophetic dream of a militant from Fort Liberte; it connects, in a premonitory symbolic vision, my swearing-in ceremony today as president of the Republic, to Chapter 10, Verses 23-24 of the Gospel according to Saint Luke, which says: Blessed are the eyes that see what you see [applause], for many have wished to see what you see and have not seen them, to hear what you hear and have not heard it. [applause]

May I be forgiven for invoking, and with no blasphemy intended, this dream, the product of the simple, naive faith of a militant, to express our responsibility to serve as witness to this unprecedented event, which will undoubtedly go down in our history, but which also places us before the categorical imperative of responding to the people's democratic hopes for our beloved Haiti—which up to now has been only a dream.

In this Assembly, over which hovers and watches the Supreme Being of the three major creeds of our people, there is a prevailing psychological wind of expectation, relief and hope.

Let's face it: We barely escaped a succession of crises which seemed to lead nowhere. We escaped by the skin of our teeth; but now confidence is reborn, peace returns, and daily life becomes progressively more normal, now that we have outlined our country's path for the next 5 years.

We are going to lay down the bases, the foundations of democracy in Haiti, the democracy the Haitian people request, which they even demand, which they deserve beyond the shadow of a doubt, and which we are going to all build together through a continuous, regular succession of alternating 5-year presidential mandates, as specified in the Constitution. [applause]

There is, thank God, an echo—a resounding echo—here in Haiti, at the sound of the words fatherland and national dignity, even though certain people have allowed their nationalistic sensitivities to be dulled by temporary disappointments, which we invite them to quickly forget. [applause]

There is, thank God, an echo here in Haiti, at the sound of the words unity and national solidarity, even though the blind erroneous pursuit of separatism, based on wounded vanity, is still holding back a few diehards, who prefer to, for awhile—a while which we hope will be short—continue to swell the minority ranks.

Lamartine used to say: The truth is my country. It is that truth that Louis Marcelin alluded to in his oration at my grandfather's official funeral at St Philippe-du-Roule in Paris in July 1900; he said that despite the spectacular setting of the Champs Elysees where the sorrowful funeral procession had just occurred in great pompe, that one dies well only in one's own village. [applause] Yes, Haiti is an authentic fatherland, the fatherland that Louis Joseph Janvier used to say one should love passionately. [applause]

But today, thank God, there is also in Haiti, an echo—and a considerable one at that—when one speaks of basic freedoms and of human rights, even though certain people may retain a bit of nostalgia for the time when contempt for life proved, to be—for awhile—an effective method of government action.

There is, thank God, an echo—and a resounding echo at that—when one says the word democracy, although a few backward skeptics may refuse to acknowledge the people's right to experience democracy, so they may make of it the flesh of their flesh. [applause]

This country expects us to cast aside forevermore the traditional temptation to be authoritarian, or even totalitarian, so the country can finally realize its new democratic calling. This is the current juncture's major political imperative. [applause]

There is also, thank God, in Haiti, an echo—and an increasingly greater echo at that—upon hearing the words social justice, although there may be a few throwbacks to the period of social haughtiness who continue to consider normal the most serious and flagrant of social inequalities and who anticipate with unjustified dread the peaceful and smooth but inevitable advent of an era of distributive justice, seeing it as the apocalypse announcing the end of the world, which they confuse with an end to their particular world.

We view the policy of social reparation not as a policy of social revenge but rather as a policy of social integration, of national integration. [applause]

Today our three-pronged dream of a progressive, nationalistic democracy, which became incarnate first in the ranks of the RDNP [Assembly of Progressive National Democrats] and today becomes incarnate in all the Haitian people, has a chance to materialize. Let us see to it that the ideal does not become too distorted in the process of becoming a reality. And to accomplish this, each and every one of us must make a conscientious effort, without reservations.

I say and I reiterate, to my adversaries or rivals of yesterday or of today: Let's be friends, gentlemen. I am issuing to you this invitation personally. [applause] I will never stop repeating, and never tire of repeating: The only language necessary is the language of reconciliation and of national unity; the only strategy necessary is the strategy of dialogue with a view to concerted action. [applause]

To this country's true democrats, who with us or at the same time as ourselves fought so long to see the dawn of freedom after the long night of a 30-year dictatorship; to this country's true patriots, who with us or at the same time as ourselves sighed and struggled so that one day our Haiti could have its opportunity for rehabilitation and for recovery; to the great-hearted men of Haiti who have been working for some time without respite so the fraternity of which our national motto speaks might find expression in the economic and social spheres in terms of a less unfair distribution of this country's goods and of its wealth, and in terms of a greater equality of opportunity for all without discrimination or monopoly; I again appeal for unity, that we might make a collective leap forward to rescue Haiti through concerted action in solidarity with all the sons of Toussaint Louverture, of Dessalines, of Christophe, and of Petion. [applause]

I had promised that if victory smiled on us, there would be no losers. I have begun to keep my word with the nine former presidential candidates who have up to now agreed to smoke the peace pipe during talks characterized by the courteous cordiality (?befitting) relations between true democrats and true patriots. [applause]

For my part, I will continue to be available to the others, who can be sure of being welcomed with open arms for dialogue whenever they feel ready and as soon as they will have ceased avoiding the unitarian dynamics of acceptance and collaboration that is already sweeping along the entire country. [applause]

I am not losing hope of dispelling the remaining reservations and aloofness by proving myself, as a man of good faith and of overtures, since apparently they are waiting for me to do this before they will trust me. They will simply have missed the opportunity to, together with us, begin the undertaking of establishing a true democracy and the economic development and social progress the people are expecting. Though they will be absent at the moment the foundations are laid, they will join us—I hope—at the moment the new structural elements of our common place of residence are erected.

As for the last diehards, once they are minimized by the serene power of the majority, they will calm down of themselves, because, as the now-deceased Maurice Sixto liked to say: That which goes up must come down. [preceding quote in Creole] [applause].

Thus, a society that will finally be free, egalitarian, and fraternal will be constructed in this country. It is common knowledge that we have been preparing for this task for a long time, because the RDNP's victory is one of perseverance in the struggle.

Catullus said: Victory requires effort. The nature and the field of action of this effort have now changed. An entire community must be set to work to produce, in freedom, three key words that must henceforth take the place of all politics.

The Haitian people cannot take it any longer. They are tired of being hungry, sick, poorly housed, of not having shoes or clothes, of being illiterate, unemployed, beaten, looked down upon, of being badly off, in a word, of not being full-fledged citizens of our Haiti.

The people are now calling upon us to keep the promises made in our program of government, in order to change life, ensuring a better future for all.

To do this, we must recover peace before anything else, peace in all its different dimensions: political peace, peace in the streets, social peace, peace in the hearts and minds of the people. It is within the context of such a climate of peace that trust—a necessary condition for the revival of business by means of a resumption of productive investments—is strengthened. The psychological, political, social, and economic aspects of life are interconnected and interrelated. At this precise moment of the current juncture, we will be heard to clamor unceasingly: This country requires peace, unity, employment, freedom, and justice!

This is better and better understood. The proof of this—and I insist upon this—is the dynamics of acceptance of the new order of things represented by my rise to the Presidency.

But this places on us even greater responsibilities, for rural poverty is reaching indescribable proportions and distress in the crowded slums of our cities is at its zenith. It is not enough to identify possible futures and to choose the one most compatible with our resources and our possibilities. We must, by exerting surveillance and supervision over Haiti's space and time, render possible that which is desirable—that is to say, we must identify and forge the levers of change; and we must be capable of mastering an entire succession of future junctures by selecting the best possible projected scenarios possible. I have often defined politics as the art and the technique of reducing the gap between the desirable and the possible.

Time is short and we must be honest enough to acknowledge this if we want to stop going through life in a series of steps backwards, as Paul Valery so wisely put it. We have not realized well enough, still living under the illusions created by the glorious heritage of 1804, that in a universe in which everything is changing with increasingly greater speed, backwardness, like progress, is also cumulative.

The people must be told the truth. Given the seriousness of the economic crisis and the present state of our finances, my coming to power will not mean immediate abundance, but just the opposite, an austerity which is progressive, aimed at making tomorrow better; for by eating the seeds, we would lose our chances for a future harvest; and by picking too many flowers today, we would reduce the chances of picking, tomorrow, the fruits of which those flowers are the promise.

Nevertheless, an austerity which is progressive consists of not making the workers alone bear the brunt of the needed collective sacrifice. The Bible says: From him to whom much has been given, much will be asked. This is the basic principle of the fiscal policy of the United States and of Canada, as well as of France and Germany. Of course the effort, which must be made by the entire community, must be well-balanced and proportional. This is only fair.

In any case, as regards the restructuring of public sector salaries, as well as the fiscal effort to be demanded of all, the example will come from the top.

The private sector has already heard me say many times that we feel that the freedom to operate within a market economy is inseparable from our concept of democracy and from the option befitting our country on the threshold of a colossal development effort. Therefore, private initiative will be encouraged, to foster the emergence of a modern, progressive, nationalistic businessman. We are, by the way, already seeing some remarkable examples of this type of person.

Must I recall, to prove that our convictions in this regard are not new, that this doctrinal and strategic position had already been defined in the appeal I made in the summer of 1980 to the nation's vital forces, to what back then I called the seven pillars of the democratic, nationalistic, and progressive renewal?

We know that the private sector needs a climate of social peace and political stability to function, so it may develop confidence, which is indispensable, of course; but we also know that confidence is forthcoming—is born and develops—when one is willing to do one's part.

On the other hand, the government knows that to function, the private sector, like the entire country, needs to have clear, precise, and stable rules of the game. Above all, it needs the guarantee that these rules will be applied to everyone equally. We give you this guarantee, and we will keep our word. Furthermore, the government commits itself to continuing an institutional dialogue with the private sector through the mixed committee, to the work of which we are going to give new impetus.

All the government wants is for the private sector to play its part dynamically, in accordance and in harmony with the requirements of the great national symphony that we must all play together, with destiny having put into my hands the conductor's baton. [applause]

In relations between capital and labor, which are fundamental for a stable social peace, our essential concern is to see that the workers are appreciated for what they are: first of all, human beings, with all that this definition implies as regards human dignity, and which cannot be gotten around; and secondly, partners in the production process, with everything that this definition entails as regards social justice, and which cannot be gotten around.

We have already publicly committed ourselves to developing a policy of social reparation in regard to the living conditions of the urban and rural masses, which must be given the equality of opportunity identified with the ideal of a just and fraternal society.

Everyone knows we are in favor of lowering the cost of living to increase the workers' buying power but not through the artificial and unacceptable means of open and unbridled contraband, which obviously must be stopped, even though it does have certain positive social aspects. [applause]

This government is convinced that the existence of responsible workers' unions—unions which are well-informed on both the national and international market situation, are vigilant in regard to the defense and promotion of workers' rights and interests, as is their legitimate function; and unions which are acknowledged and accepted by management, as the law requires—will allow them to become valid participants in the new social dialogue. It will also permit them to evolve from a combative unionism to a unionism of contractual action.

To change topics now, no government can possibly be more responsive than mine to the obligation to respect our international commitments. In connection with this, I feel that my position as president of Haiti constitutes the greatest guarantee there is. I have so often taught university students from all over the world that the principle of international relations resides in the old traditional expression: pacta sunt servanda [treaties must be observed].

Haiti will play out its role of peace-loving nation and of apostle of international harmony, at its own modest level of course, but effectively and with dignity on the five-fold level of insular, regional, hemispheric, occidental, and universal solidarity.

The United Nations system, in which the equal sovereignty of nations—to which we are justifiably sensitive—can still express itself freely, is, in our opinion, of capital importance. This will translate, in concrete behavior, into an intensification and a better use of our membership in this system.

In particular we want to point out that the struggle against drugs, that worldwide scourge, will be intensified during my government within the framework of increased participation by Haiti in cooperative international efforts, so we can contribute to suppressing drug traffic in Haitian territory over which we exercise sovereign rights. [applause]

Must we really call to mind the circumstances prevailing momentarily in our relations with two or three countries that have decided to reduce or slow down their cooperation programs? The new government is pleased to be able to rejoice at seeing friendly relations with different governments that are our priviliged partners. They will continue here in Haiti through their accredited chiefs of missions and my government assures them—should need be—that our willingness to be friends will become even warmer and more fruitful as we go from a diplomacy, the dominant characteristic of which is representation, to a diplomacy primarily characterized by pragmatic solidarity.

On the other hand, obviously my government deplores the after-effects of a situation for which everyone is willing to admit in private that it is not responsible.

However, we cannot fail to note that a country's electoral process is one of those domestic matters which international law generally excludes from any interventionist right of inspection from abroad. [applause] I say this all the more willingly because on the one hand, this process did not at all take on the undemocratic character that a systematic and not impartial campaign attributed to it; and especially because, on the other hand, this process in fact turned out to be the only, narrow, path available for maintaining and ensuring the chances for a true democracy in Haiti.

Disinterested friends understood this well. Allow me to cite at least a few: our Latin American brothers, for example. In their statements and through their behavior, they were able to refrain from appearing to teach erroneous lessons, because after a tortuous and unexpected detour that included regrettable episodes which we ourselves condemned at the opportune moment, it is, parodoxically, the cause of democracy that has fortunately emerged victorious from these difficult moments.

This shows how right we were to contribute to effecting this Louvertureian opening by taking a calculated risk which has turned out to be profitable to both the country and to freedom.

In any case, little black Haiti, proudly standing tall, bolstered by national dignity, calls to mind two maxims the Romans used long ago to express the desirable quality of close relations between friends unequal in means but equal in dignity: Amicus certus in re incerta cernitur, or, it is in adversity that one's true friends are revealed. [applause]; and bis dat qui cito dat, or, He who gives quickly gives doubly. [applause]

Is it not cause for patriotic pride today to recognize the existence of these two qualities back at the dawn of our national history as evidenced by the helping hand extended by Petion to Bolivar, who was in trouble? This is an example to meditate upon and perhaps to revive in some chancellery.

In any case, I am pleased to point out, as a private citizen, that during my period of exile in Venezuela, I encountered everywhere, in all circles and in all political sectors, that spirit of disinterested and spontaneous solidarity of which the deceased Dr Aristides Calvani is such a magnificent and illustrative example, and this to cite only deceased persons.

We guarantee the churches that they will be able to flourish, thanks to equal freedom for all creeds—a freedom which everyone knows we do not intend to attack in any way—because under my government, no religion, no church, no creed will ever be persecuted. [applause] But we ask them, as spiritual forces, to make a still more positive contribution to the work of national rescue by promoting the blossoming and spread of a spirit of peace, of pluralistic tolerance, and of unity more in keeping with their moral responsibilities, which they must not exercise in only one direction. [applause]

No one can doubt—since the voice emerging from my mouth is a Christian voice and the heart that is expressing itself today is a Christian heart—we want to entertain harmonious relations with the Catholic Church, as well as with the other different creeds among which the living faith of our people is divided. But in each case—I am speaking here of the Catholic, Protestant, and Voodoo creeds—it takes two to entertain such relations; and above all, this harmony must take into account the specific requirements of the nation's identity and culture; and most especially, the institutional and real pre-eminence of the state, which is constitutionally a lay state, and of the supremacy of the law.

Peace is created first and foremost in peoples' minds and the action of the churches takes place in the domain of things spiritual. Thus, there is a responsibility there to be assumed more manifestly and more constructively, with respect for the laws of the Republic.

The Army will hereby have ended its mission without a bloodbath, without a civil war, without anarchy or chaos, a foreign military intervention. [applause] It is true that there have been slipups. There have been errors, and probably even culpable misconduct, but the result is there: We have gone from the reality of the dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier to the dazzling prospects for democracy that have been opened today through the coming to power of Leslie F. Manigat [applause], leader of a political party, the RDNP, which has been in the foreground of a long, 9-year struggle for this democracy, to the point of embodying it in exile and later throughout the long electoral campaign.

In view of this result, how can we not say that the military have, in the last analysis, served their country well—or (?doubt that) now, with their temporary political mission accomplished, they are going to, within and from their barracks, devote themselves to the tasks of national defense and security—the tasks for which they were trained—while waiting to be put more actively and

systematically to the service of national development as they modernize and are harmoniously incorporated into the general process of democratization, as occurred, for example, in Venezuela under Romulo Betancourt? [applause]

The only institution capable of filling the political void left by Jean-Claude's departure has thus not failed in its mission. It presents a generally positive balance sheet of the period it has just served in purgatory, which it lived through with a stiff upper lip. Nothing—absolutely nothing—is perfect in this world; and any provisional government whatsoever would have found the conditions encountered delicate and even adverse. Therefore, let us leave it up to impartial history to deliver a final judgment.

In any case, the support and collaboration of the Army—of a democratized Army, of a modernized Army, of an Army put in the service of national development—remains, within the framework laid down by the Constitution and the principle of the supremacy of the civilian power, indispensable for the consolidation of our nascent democracy. [applause]

Young people of my country, you who are perhaps more capable than others of making disinterested sacrifices; Haitians of the diaspora, our new Haiti overseas; Haitians here in our birthplace: A peasantry which constitutes a majority of us, which is the nation's cornerstone and constitutes the nation's fresh reserves, is appealing to you. A people joyful despite its abject poverty is counting on you to help it save itself, with the humanism of the illiterate that allows it to smile at others and at life despite its tragic destitution. [applause]

Everything lies in the unspeakable suffering of the Haitian people, by which no Haitian should remain unmoved. Let us thus all buckle down to the task of helping this people succeed peacefully its own redeeming revolution.

Young and old, men and women, citizens from the elite and citizens from the masses, blacks and mulattoes, urban Haitians and peasants: Let us all, from this day forward, form a great chain of unity and solidarity for the redemption of all, without discrimination or exclusiveness of any kind.

Hand in Hand [preceding phrase in Spanish], cried General De Gaulle; and above all, let's get to work [preceding phrase in Spanish], as a great friend, former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, likes to say.

In any case, we ourselves, whose democratic and Christian inspiration has the open political support of the Christian Democratic international community today headed by two friends, former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins and Belgian Andre Louis, are optimistic about our ambition for our people.

If we are victorious—and we intend to be victorious—the victory will be democracy's victory. The victory will be Haiti's victory. The victory will be that of the majority of the nation's citizens. We will all be victorious. [applause] May the guardian angels of the nation watch over this first 5-year period of the democratic era.

If we should be so unfortunate as to fail—God forbid!—I alone will assume responsibility for the failure before history. [applause] But with the help of all men of good will and with God's blessing, we shall triumph. Let us therefore say: All together, to the final victory! [applause].

Reactions to President Manigat's Inauguration

Opposition Comments

FL102158 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] In reference to opposition reaction, the leaders of the main opposition parties said yesterday they intended to structure their parties to serve as constructive and loyal opposition groups to the new president (?as long as) the new president exhibited a will to establish a true democracy in Haiti.

While they continue to consider his inauguration Sunday an unconstitutional and undemocratic farce, leaders of the opposition constituting the Committee for Democratic Agreement [CED] are waiting to see Mr Manigat at work, but do not for the time being envision any collaboration with the future government, which is to be appointed within the next few days.

PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party] president Reverend Sylvio Claude said: We will not accept Mr Manigat's government unless it takes spectacular measures which show clearly it is trying to establish a true democracy. If he respects the democratic rules of the game, we will be a constructive and loyal opposition. But if he sets in place a dictatorial government, we will systematically oppose it, added Claude.

For his part, PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party] leader Louis Dejoie said he felt the opposition had lost a battle but not the war and that the struggle for democracy continues. We are going to restructure our party nationwide, but we are not going to engage in subversive opposition, he added.

Mr Dejoie said he was very sad to see that Mr Manigat, who Dejoie said was chosen by the Army, chose to come to power illegally through the back door. However, Dejoie said he felt this is the first time in history Haiti has had such a capable president. Mr Manigat is a highly-intelligent man, and possesses extraordinary qualities, said Dejoie. We are going to watch and see what he does, he added. The Army is no longer in power and this is already something positive, said Dejoie.

Dejoie also said that he felt Haiti needs everyone's cooperation to get out from under its problems, but that for the time being, there has been no spectacular overture by Manigat which would encourage direct cooperation with his government. Dejoie noted that there were ideological compatibilities between his party and that of the new president—the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats, RDNP.

Serges Gilles of the National Concerted Action Front said his party also will have to structure and organize itself so it can be a modern and serious opposition group in Haiti. We will see what Mr Manigat does, he added.

Bazin: Wants Deeds Not Words

FL102245 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Marc Bazin, another leader of the CED, has spoken to us on Mr Manigat's inaugural speech.

[Reporter] Mr Bazin, I have two questions for you this morning. First, we would like to have your reaction to Leslie Manigat's inaugural speech. How do you feel about it? What do think it means? What, if anything, struck you about it? What positive and what negative aspects do you see in it?

[Bazin] The message is full of good ideas, good intentions. The message speaks of social justice, national unity, human rights, social reparation, and equality of opportunity. There are many good things in the speech. Nevertheless, a speech is only a speech. What we need now is for Mr Manigat to begin taking action, so we can see what he will really do. So my first reaction is that the speech is very nice, with lots of good things in it. Now we are waiting for him to go into action, to see if he really means it, to see what things will really be like.

Secondly, there are three or four things in Mr Manigat's speech which I do not think I agree with. The first thing is the Constitution. I did not hear a single reference to the Constitution in the speech. The Constitution is the nation's pillar, its highest law. It is what some 99 percent of the Haitian people voted for in March 1987. So if you are going to take over the government and you say you are going to effect democracy and justice, I would expect the Constitution to be your guideline.

One of the things wrong with the speech, for example, is that Mr Manigat often referred to the government as his. He kept saying: my government; whereas under the Constitution, Mr Manigat is the head of state and not the head of the government. It is the prime minister who is the head of the government.

So if you are the head of state and you confuse your role with that of the head of the government—the prime minister—I think this constitutes the first ambiguity which must be clarified. I think it is necessary to state that this was just a matter of style, and does not at all constitute a true intention on Mr Manigat's part to mix the state and the government.

A second thing I am confused about is this business of the churches. Mr Manigat insisted a lot on the fact that the church should concern itself with things of the spirit. Now, I personally feel that in Haiti, the church has a role of capital importance—to guide, enlighten, care for, bring together, and pray for the liberation of Haiti and the people. So if you want social justice, but don't think the church should do anything other than pray, then there is an ambiguity in that too, which I would like to have clarified. Because I, Marc Bazin, personally think it is not only the church's right but its duty, to work to emancipate, to liberate the Haitian people. The church is involved in both pastoral and social action. And the social aspect of the church's work is an aspect I consider extremely important and something that I would like, on the contrary, to see expanded and strengthened instead of curtailed.

The third thing that struck me, in the part of the speech that deals with economics, is that Mr Manigat has come up with a notion new to me. It is something with which I am not at all familiar. He calls it an austerity which is progressive. I don't know what that is. He also speaks of the workers' buying power, which will increase but I don't see any measures either to increase wages or to lower prices. So I would like to know if Mr Manigat will institute price controls in order to increase buying power, or what?

These are mechanisms that they should clarify, because this is important, if they are going to control prices in the country.

The second thing in connection with economics in Mr Manigat's speech that interested me greatly, just as it interests all Haitians, is that he said the people with money should pay. He said: From him to whom much has been given, much will be asked. [preceding quote in French] I agree. I like that statement. I think it's great. Now, the question is who, exactly, are they going to ask to pay? And as of when are they going to ask him to pay?

The CNG [National Government Council], for reasons that no one has ever understood, decreed a fiscal amnesty law under which everyone with debts no longer owes money. So I am wondering if those taxes that Mr Manigat will make everyone pay are going to begin as of now. If the answer is yes, they are not going to bring in very much; whereas the people need...[changes thought] If you talk about social reparation, you have to make these guys pay taxes for all the years they accumulated illegal profits at the expense of the people. But if you tell me that you are starting from this day forward, the little amount of money that will start coming in will not be enough and you will have even lost the moral aspect of the social reparation.

Thus I would like to have this spelled out clearly, so we will know what kind of taxes there are in Haiti now, so the rich can pay.

And there is a third thing I would like to say in connection with social reparation. Traditionally in Haiti, when people speak of social justice and of social reparation, what they mean is allowing middle class people who can read and write to come to power so they can make money, forming alliances with those who already have money. Instead of those who already have money becoming poorer, those who are already poor are going to contribute to enriching the newcomers.

So when anyone speaks to me of social reparation and social justice, I need to know if you are going to put in a new group of profiteers who are going to come hit the already-wealthy for bucks or form alliances with the already-wealthy so they can continue sucking out the people's lifeblood in order to make money. I want to know if you are really going to take money from those who currently have it and send it back to the Haitian people; if you are going to prevent those who are out to get the Haitian people to sell themselves. I need to know if you will prevent the same old things from starting all over again, the selling of blood, bodies, children, boat people [previous two words rendered in English], the selling of laborers to the Dominican sugar industry, and so forth.

That is what social justice entails. It is not enough just to talk to me about social justice and social reparation. It is not a matter of putting a few more men before a plate of food. It is taking from those who eat too much in order to give to those who have no food at all. That is what social reparation is.

[Reporter] Mr Bazin, how do you feel about Mr Manigat's call to the opposition to come and participate in, to collaborate with his government? The second part of my question is: What is the opposition going to do next? What means are you going to use to continue the struggle for democracy?

[Bazin] I approve of the appeal to the opposition, and I salute it as a good initiative. To have called upon the opposition is good. Now what must be defined is: On what basis?

For example, I myself think that in order for Mr Manigat's call to be valid, he should take a certain number of measures. For example, I need to know who killed Athis, who killed Volel, who gave the order for the toxic waste ship in Gonaives to leave port, who did the killing on 29 November. I need to know if men like Sansaricq and people like that will be freed—if they will be given political amnesty. In short, this is the kind of thing I need to know to begin with.

Secondly, in the short run, I would like to know what practical measures Mr Manigat will take to provide us with a calendar to implement the measures stipulated in the Constitution, for example, administrative decentralization, the formation of departmental assemblies, a court of accounts. Mr Manigat has talked about transparency and integrity, but until he has created a court of accounts made up of sober, credible people who will really go in and find out who stole money and where that money is, we cannot really feel that an order to be open suffices.

Thus, since we are democrats, we have no objections, in principle. On the contrary, I myself would like to contribute to the installation of democracy in Haiti by showing the Haitian people there is room in a country for both a government and an opposition. I agree the opposition should be a constructive opposition; that it should be a sober, responsible, opposition. It shouldn't be a totally negative opposition, which constantly criticizes everything and never approves of anything. That is the kind of action I would like to take at this point; but with the understanding that the fundamental premise must be that everyone respects the Constitution, that everyone respects the rules of the game and that there be a condition providing for political space in which everyone can operate in the best interests of establishing a true democracy in Haiti.

[Announcer] That was the position of MIDH [Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti] leader Marc Bazin.

MDN: Speech Shows 'Contempt'

FL110006 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Mr Manigat's inauguration constitutes a shocking and dishonest act, the MDN, Mobilization for National Development, says in a first reaction to President Leslie Francois Manigat's speech before the National Assembly last Sunday. The press department of Mr Hubert de Ronceray's party notes: The new chief of state's speech shows complete, absolute contempt for the spirit of 7 February 1986. The MDN adds that no thought was given to those who made possible Haiti's liberation, that is, the fall of Jean-Claude Duvalier in February of 1986.

Further on in its statement, terming the speech a flood of words from which the people understood nothing, a flood which neither stirred nor convinced anyone, the MDN expresses the opinion that the only positive part of the speech is the promise to declare war on drug traffickers. The MDN concludes that, quote, immediate action in this domain could undoubtedly produce good results, end quote.

Furthermore, they point out the inauguration ceremony was sprinkled with protocol slipups, such as, for example, the fact that the CNG [National Government Council] was supposed to have been decorated and was not. The MDN highlights the absence of foreign heads of state, even those who supported the Manigat coup d'etat.

The MDN's press department also severely criticized the presence of tanks in the streets of Port-au-Prince to install what the MDN terms an appointed president who calls himself a democrat.

The MDN continues: Not according the opposition any explicit status in his concept of democracy, Mr Manigat wishes to absorb everyone. The Creole expression, what goes up must come down, [phrase rendered in Creole] portends large-scale repressive measures against the national majority that is saying no to the Manigat coup d'etat.

That is, essentially, the MDN's initial reaction to Mr Leslie Francois Manigat's inaugural speech Sunday before the National Assembly.

Gourgue: Speech 'Shocking'

FL110038 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Here is some more reaction from the opposition. We will now examine the position of attorney Gerard Gourgue of the National Concerted Action Front.

[Begin recording] [Gourgue, in progress]...I am very wary of grand speeches. I have experience with the men of this country, all the way back from Vincent, who was definitely one of the masters of eloquence, a star performer. We have heard not a few speeches. [passage omitted]

My initial reaction to this speech is that there is a passage which shocks me profoundly, the part about democratic elections and about the president having been democratically elected. After everything we have seen, everything we know, everything that was noted, since that massacre on 29 November, that bloodbath that (?marked) the process from 29 November to the 17th [of January], I find it extremely strange for the president to speak of democratic elections and to affirm that he was elected with 1.2 million votes. I find this extremely shocking. And that is my first reaction to the speech.

[Reporter] Mr Gourgue, press agencies have announced that there would be a joint statement from you and three other presidential candidates and political parties announcing that you would serve as a loyal opposition to Mr Manigat.

[Gourgue] Well, the four leaders of the Committee for Democratic Agreement have not as yet met to discuss this matter. There has not yet been any joint statement on the autitude or the political line to be followed vis-a-vis yesterday's inauguration.

There have been individual position statements from the leaders of the different parties—Louis Dejoie, Sylvio Claude, and Marc Bazin. And talking to you now, I am expressing my own position. But as for a joint statement, there is no question of there being one for the time being. [end recording]

Theologian: 'Pretty Words'

FL110211 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Father (Massac), a teacher of moral theology who has on several occasions protested the immoral nature of the 17 January elections, is once again going to tell us how he sees things, since a new president came to power on 7 February.

[Reporter] Father (Massac), a new government was installed in Haiti on Sunday, 7 February 1988. We suppose you saw the inauguration. What are your thoughts on the 7 February 1988 event?

[(Massac)] (Eddy) my friend, you know that our Jesus Christ is a God of truth and justice. He must be very sad about this event and must greatly disapprove of what happened in Haiti on 7 February 1988. What happened on that date has thrown the Haitian people into deep sorrow. It constitutes a great disappointment. It's as if the weak are fated to always be on the bottom.

You saw, (Eddy), that the people expressed its sorrow and disappointment by exhibiting total indifference to an event over which it should have been extremely enthusiastic, as it was over 7 February 1986. But then, how could the people be happy, after seeing the democracy that they have been demanding for 2 years receive a stab in the back, after having their desire to participate massively in electing leaders of their own choice drowned in blood?

They gave the people a guided election that goes against the country's Constitution and against all honesty. They forced them to accept a leader the people themselves did not choose.

[(Eddy)] The people will get to know that leader—whom they did not choose—better after they hear him or rather, as they continue to hear him, because this is not the first time the people have listened to him. He made a big speech upon taking office. Have you yourself analyzed that speech? Can you give us your opinion of the speech?

[(Massac)] (Eddy) my friend, I do not want to talk too long. I can say the people heard a number of pretty words; but those words contradict the way that government came to power, with the way it sees the tragic events that the people have been living since 7 February 1986 and especially since 29 November 1987.

Everyone who does not voluntarily wear blinkers over his eyes—because he is expecting to obtain some kind of advantage from the government that has just come to power—is asking himself the following question: Can a government that comes to power by scorning all the people's aspirations give us the democracy it has promised?

Can a president who can compliment a group of military who put him into power through the force of weapons, with nary a thought for the many dead bodies buttressing his presidential chair, be counted on to seek the happiness of the Haitians who are left, of those who escaped the bullets?

Can a president who appears to be thanking those military for placing his presidential chair in the midst of toxic waste that is threatening the lives of the population be counted on to respect the dignity of the Haitian people and lead the battle against drugs as he promised he would do?

Can a government that will be working with a parliament and an administration more than 60 percent of which is made up of people implicated in the dictatorship that the Haitian people overthrew because of corruption—and which has not promised any cleanup, despite Article 291 of the Constitution—eliminate corruption in Haiti? Humph!

[(Eddy)] Well, Father (Massac), under these circumstances, do you think there can be any collaboration with the new government? I mean, won't people have trouble cooperating with the new government?

[(Massac)] (Eddy) my friend, as a teacher of morality, I can tell you there is too much immorality in the foundations of this government for an honest citizen to rush to associate himself with a regime that does not offer any guarantees for its good will and honesty other than pretty words from a man with a silver tongue, words which contradict what he did to come to power.

The big problem is how is the new president going to go about obtaining the well-being of all of Haiti's citizens as he has promised? How will he re-establish respect for human rights? How will he safeguard and show respect for democracy, eliminate corruption in the public administration, and respect the oath he took to apply the Constitution?

More than ever, (Eddy), I think that Christians and true patriots should keep their distance from that illegitimate government, to see how he will make all those pretty words a reality, to continue combatting abuses and violations of human rights, and to unite all patriots. A formula for a democratic government for Haiti will sooner or later have to be installed in compliance with the will of God and of a majority of the citizens.

[(Eddy)] Thank you very much, Father (Massac).

New Prime Minister's Career Outlined

FL110050 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The Haitian Senate yesterday unanimously approved Mr Leslie Manigat's choice of attorney Martial Celestin to be prime minister of Haiti. [passage omitted] The Chamber of Deputies unanimously ratified Celestin shortly afterwards. [passage omitted] Mr Celestin also (?delivered a speech to) the president, during which he thanked Mr Manigat very much for all the president had done for him, because it is the president who has made him a leader, who has raised him up. He said he will do all he can to please the president.

Mr Leslie Manigat answered that it is Mr Celestin's competence that has put him where he now is; and that his unanimous approval as prime minister by the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies was spontaneous, that there had been no preparation or any campaign in his favor. The legislators learned of the president's choice for prime minister in a letter he sent them.

However, rumors are circulating that two prominent figures were proposed by the president to the legislators. One of them was Mr Celestin, a former secretary at the Haitian Embassy in Paris in the 1950's under the Paul Eugene Magloire regime, and a former head of the Order of Attorneys of Port-au-Prince, from 1980-84. The 75-year-old Celestin is considered a moderate and a man close to Mr Manigat. He is said to be loyal to Manigat.

The other person proposed by the Haitian president was 55-year-old Gerard Latortue, a Paris-trained UN expert from Gonaives, also considered a liberal moderate. Mr Latortue spent 23 years in exile during the macoute regime of the Duvaliers.

Who is Martial Celestin? A secondary school teacher from 1933-35. He was a lawyer from 1935-46. He was deputy public prosecutor from October 1946 to July 1950. He then embarked on a diplomatic career and was first secretary of the Haitian Embassy in Paris from 1950-56. He was secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from September to November 1956. He held the rank of ambassador under president Paul Magloire. A teacher of law in Port-au-Prince since 1978, Celestin was head of the Order of Attorneys of Port-au-Prince from 1982-86. [as heard] [passage omitted]

Priest States Readiness To Combat Government

FL092303 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The committed church is ready to fight Mr Manigat's diabolical government. Sunday's inauguration of Mr Leslie Manigat means the establishment of a diabolical government in Haiti which must be prevented from remaining in power, said one of the most virulent leaders of the committed church, Father Jean Bertrand Aristide.

Father Aristide added that the struggle to install democracy should now shift into a higher gear and that although demonstrations and strikes remained valid forms of action, the Haitian people would henceforth refuse to take to the streets empty handed. The priest said he felt the Haitian people had manifested its disapproval Sunday by not celebrating in the streets the coming to power of the new president, who was imposed by means of weapons and corruption by the U.S. Government and the National Government Council [CNG].

Mr Manigat cannot rule the country without the country, govern the people without the people, said Aristide, in statements he made to AFP. He added that he felt Manigat was going to establish a dictatorship.

It will be a diabolical government, for it will be dominated by the spirit of evil and of lies and not by a spirit of justice, which is the spirit of God, said Aristide, who added that his opinion was shared by a large number of priests.

The Episcopal Conference of Haiti—AFP points out—which feels that last 17 January's elections which brought Mr Manigat to the presidency were not free, stood aloof from Mr Manigat's inauguration, which was not attended by a single representative of the Catholic Church except the papal nuncio.

The new president, who is a Catholic, continues (Edouard Pons') report, affirmed Sunday that he will guarantee the unhindered development of the churches, while inviting them to work towards peace and unity with respect for the preeminence of the state.

Anti-Election Petitions Cause Arrests

FL041700 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Report by Hinche correspondent (Jacques Clerveau)]

[Excerpts] After struggling against a campaign of intimidation which often included death threats, Dr (Jean-Hughes Aris), who is in charge of the community medicine center in Thomonde and is also the Caritas medicosocial authority for the diocese of Hinche, had to flee from the death squad that was out to do him in on election day, 29 November 1987. He was forced to spend exactly 1 month and 1 day in Port-au-Prince.

Yesterday, Tuesday, 2 February, a delegation made up of Dr (Jean-Hughes Aris) himself; Dr (Daniel Aris); Dr (Max Aris); Attorney Rene Julien, the doctor's lawyer; and Mr Nick Cook, a Canadian observer, arrived in Thomonde. The delegation came to obtain information about a criminal act committed by a group of burglars at Dr (Jean-Hughes)'s residence. The burglars stole a lot of things and left a machete on a bed—either because they forgot it or on purpose. Our sources said the burglars wrote a slogan which said: Long live the army, Namphy, (Pinas). Down with the communist front.

At the Court of Conciliation in Thomonde, the official record on this matter said all this happened on the night of 29 January 1988. The judge said, in the presence of the delegation and the press from the upper central plateau, that the matter is in the hands of the police, which will investigate.

Will there really be an investigation? Everyone hopes so. [passage omitted]

Dr (Jean-Hughes Aris) gave us a statement in which he congratulated the population of Thomonde for its courage. He pointed out the harm his absence from the area was causing, both to himself—he still wants to serve the population of Thomonde—and to the population, which needs his services. He also asked all struggling sectors to stand their ground, because no one else can come and do what we Haitians must do. [passage omitted]

On Sunday, 31 January, in La Victoire, a corporal did not hesitate to arrest the Reverend Father (Tim) as he walked down the street and to take him to the barracks. Father (Tim) is the parish priest in La Victoire.

The corporal had simply decided to take from the priest's hand a petition in which the people of the area expressed their feelings about the way the 17 January elections unfolded. While the military held the priest inside the barracks, a crowd of people went to the church, rang the church bell, and then gathered in front of the barracks, where they continued signing the petition, to show they will not accept the results of the 17 January elections, which they say is a truly undemocratic masquerade. The priest was released that same day.

According to a last note we have received from Thomassique, it seems that people who signed that petition are continuing to be arrested there.

Trinidad and Tobago

Basdeo, Tewarie, Sanderson Take Oaths

FL101620 Bridgetown CANA in English 1707 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 10, CANA—The new members of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson's cabinet were sworn in at a quiet ceremony on Tuesday night, a day after Robinson sacked three ministers

including his Deputy Basdeo Panday. At a low-key ceremony at the official residence of President Noor Hassanali, new cabinet ministers, Senator Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo (External Affairs) and Dr Bhoe Tewarie (withough portfolio) took the oath of office. Former backbencher, Arthur Sanderson, was also sworn in as parliamentary secretary in the newly extended Settlements and Public Utilities ministry.

Panday, Public Utilities Minister Kelvin Ramnath, and Junior Finance Minister Trevor Sudama were fired amid renewed criticism of Robinson's leadership by a faction within the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR). Reporters attending the ceremony were constantly told they would not be able to interview Robinson who is yet to actually state the reason for the dismissals. The cabinet now is as follows:

A.N.R. Robinson—Prime minister, minister of Finance and Planning.

Senator Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo—Minister of External Affairs and International Trade.

Senator Dr. Herbert Atwell—Minister of National Security and Citizenship.

Senator Ken Gordon—Minister of Industry, Enterprise and Tourism.

Senator Clive Pantin—Minister of Education.

Lincoln Myers—Minister of Food Production, Marine Exploitation, Forestry and the Environment.

Winston Dookeran—Minister of Planning and Mobilisation.

Dr. Carson Charles—Minister of Works and Infrastructure.

Dr. Albert Richards—Minister of Energy and Labour, Employment and Manpower Resources.

Jennifer Johnson—Minister of Youth, Sport, Culture, and the Creative Arts.

Gloria Henry—Minister of Community Development, Welfare and the Status of Women.

Dr Emmanuel Hosein—Minister of Health.

Pamela Nicholson—Minister of Settlements and Public Utilities.

Dr. Brinsley Samaroo-Minister of Decentralisation.

Dr. Bhoe Tewarie—Minister without portfolio.

Reaction To Cabinet Changes

FL091610 Bridgetown CANA in English 1436 GMT 9 Feb 88

[By Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 9, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's business community on Tuesday gave its support to Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson after he fired three ministers of his dissent-hit 13-month old government. The morning newspapers said Robinson had little choice. But a small opposition party, the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC), urged Robinson to resign and call general elections.

In a joint statement, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association [TTMA], the South Trinidad Chamber, and the employers consultative association said: Under Normal conditions our organisations do not take part in any political activity and try to remain non-partisan, but under the present conditions, however, we must support the action of the prime minister.

Robinson on Monday sacked his deputy and Foreign Minister Basdeo Panday as well as Public Utilities Minister Kelvin Ramnath and Junior Finance Minister Trevor Sudama amidst reports that they were trying to oust him.

The three had belonged to the former Indian-based United Labour Front (ULF), one of the parties which had teamed up to form Robinson's National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR).

The business groups, in their statement, said: We need to judge calmly, unemotionally, rationally and without any reference to creed or race. We must ensure that peace and calm prevail and that nothing interferes with our goal of national economic independence. The business men adjudged the situation to be one of dissidents in the party who could not get their own way disrupting the one slogan of the NAR.

The groups added: The original unity within the party has not been able to outlast the divisions caused by some of the people within the party. They advised all members of government to realise the country was under economic siege. All must realise that it is a betrayal of the trust of the electorate when national interest is subordinated to personal ambition, they said.

The mandate of a 33-3 (seat) majority is as national a government as any country can require. It remains now for the elected members of government to recognise that nothing, absolutely nothing, must distract them from coping with the economic crisis which this country faces.

NJAC on Monday night called for fresh general elections following the second reshuffle by Prime Minister Robinson. NJAC's conclusion is that what the NAR government needs to do, from prime minister right back, is resign, and call fresh elections, one of the party's deputy political leaders, Aiyegoro Ome, said.

NJAC, a 17 year-old party, had called for fresh elections the first time Robinson reshuffled his cabinet—two months ago. If that (election) is not done by the government, all of those people...who voted for the NAR to become the government of this country, must now bear very much in mind what NJAC been saying all along, that the NAR represented a mere exchange and not a fundamental change. We are saying that if a party cannot deal with its internal affairs, it has neither the responsibility nor the right to govern our country, Ome added. The cabinet reshuffle is merely a continuation of the politics of illusion in that it will solve absolutely nothing. It is a question now of the very crucial issue of the distribution of power within the NAR not being solved.

Meanwhile, the EXPRESS and GUARDIAN newspapers, in editorial columns, said the prime minister had little choice but to fire the three ministers. Not one of these three honourable gentlemen can say they did not ask for it, the EXPRESS said. The EXPRESS said that even the other NAR deputy leader, Karl Hudson-Phillips had described Robinson as bending over backwards to criticisms at his leadership by factions within the party.

This time he felt that the continued opposition from senior ministers like Mr. Panday was too much to take and we feel sure he has the support of a majority in this decisive action, the GUARDIAN said. The GUARDIAN said Trinidad and Tobago's political stability must remain a primary objective. As unpleasant as the act might have been, the prime minister had very little choice other than to remove the trio of ministers. A head of government must be, and be seen to be, the leader of a team that is moving in a concerted fashion towards a national goal, the GUARDIAN said.

The EXPRESS cited comments Panday—head (on leave) of a sugar union—made to sugar workers on Sunday about being an embarassment to them as they seek to battle with government for a backpay. Fine. Then resign, the EXPRESS said. But in the next breath, Mr. Panday declares he is not walking away from something he helped to create, the paper added. This would be comical were it not so serious the EXPRESS said.

El Salvador

FDR's Ungo Urges Resumption of Dialogue

PA110000 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo in Panama City by Oscar Ramirez and Javier Najarro on 10 February—recorded]

[Text] [Ungo] We believe the remarks of Viera [Salvadoran minister of culture and communications] concerning a refusal to talk with us do not constitute an official Salvadoran Government reply. We want to reiterate our proposal concerning the resumption of a dialogue. I know Mr Viera (?has spoken) as an official of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC]. However, our proposal was addressed to the Salvadoran Government through President Duarte. We expect Duarte to give us a specific reply through the mediator, Archibishop Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, a reply handled by Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, the archbishop's delegate who delivered our proposal to the government.

The arguments presented by Mr Viera, a second-level official in the PDC, do not sound to us serious or worthy of consideration. He noted that the country is in the middle of an electoral campaign, and that if talks are resumed at all, this would happen after 20 March. We maintain that Duarte made pledges according to Esquipulas II and ratified them during the meeting of Central American presidents in San Jose on 15 and 16 January. At this meeting, all of them agreed they had not complied with all provisions of the document, which were to be fulfilled immediately. Duarte himself (?agreed) with this. It is evident that dialogue is a fundamental part of these agreements. Consequently, the Salvadoran Government must comply with these accords. The government cannot now invoke an electoral campaign that makes it impossible to fulfill the agreements. We say dialogue is even more necessary now than at other times, because the Esquipulas agreement includes specific commitments on human rights, political freedom, and democratization in the country. These factors are necessary for elections. In this way, the Salvadoran people can feel free from fear and safe in their daily activities.

Instead, the opposite has been happening. There has been an increase of violations of human rights and death-squad activities. Authorities have been acting passively, which makes them accomplices in these crimes. Instead of ensuring that criminals are interrogated, tried, and sentenced, the criminals feel protected by the amnesty. This amnesty is total and absolute, and it has been questioned—particularly Article 2—not only by us, but also by several social sectors. An unconstitutionality suit has been filed at the Supreme Court of Justice by the Human Rights Institute of the Catholic Church and the Christian Legal Assistance organization.

All this makes two things even more necessary and evident:

1. It is obvious that the Salvadoran Government has failed to comply with the agreements. It is necessary that it comply.

2. The government must reply to our proposal for a dialogue, which contains important, interesting, and useful clauses. For instance, we propose to invite government representatives of the Contadora and Support Groups to discuss their observation of the active participation of the representatives of political and social sectors that play an important role in national life.

[Ramirez] How do you term Viera's refusal to talk, referring to your new proposal presented Sunday?

[Ungo] His remarks are only a personal opinion, which we cannot accept as an official reply. His opinion is hardly serious, in addition to being evasive. His opinion, which would otherwise commit the government, represents the government's refusal to comply with what it has just reiterated in San Jose, which it must comply with immediately. The government did not even want to (?consider the) deadline stipulated by the Esquipulas II agreement, in which dialogue is basic.

[Najarro] This morning FDR Vice President Ruben Zamora said a date had not been set, that the dialogue could be held some other day. Why have you presented this proposal during an electoral campaign? This is the government's argument against resuming talks.

[Ungo] We presented a proposal that includes a date. Naturally, and as Comrade Zamora said, this proposal is open to discussion and an accord; there can be a counterproposal. We did not insist this particular date be a prerequisite. In addition, the date we proposed was not immediate, although we do believe the dialogue should be resumed immediately. We gave the government time so we could agree, through the mediator, on all these points, including the participation of other sectors. So the date we suggested is not final.

[Ramirez] A final question. Nicaragua's efforts to achieve a cease-fire and some other actions for peace in Central America have been reported in the region. How does the FDR view these efforts and the obstacles that the U.S. Government has raised against the pacification of Central America?

[Ungo] This is a situation of important contradictions, with positive and negative aspects, some in favor of peace and some in favor of war. We have observed the incomprehensible stubbornness of a U.S. President bent on a strategy of war, aggression, threats, and blackmail—not only in El Salvador, but throughout Latin America. There is an increasingly positive and favorable trend

among the general U.S. public and political sectors. Proof of this is the setback the Reagan administration received regarding additional military and economic aid for the Nicaraguan contras.

Honduras

Foreign Minister on U.S. Policy, Contras

PA100314 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras by unidentified reporter in Tegucigalpa on 8 February]

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras returned from Washington today and gave an exclusive interview to this station. He stated that Honduras has not denied the presence of contras in Honduran territory for years. Lopez Contreras said that the Democrats who voted against aid to the counterrevolutionaries should assume the responsibility for preventing Central America from falling into the hands of international communism. The foreign minister stated the following:

[Begin recording] [Lopez Contreras] I believe the counterrevolution is Nicaragua's problem, for it involves Nicaraguans. That has never been in doubt. Those who comprise the groups fighting the Nicaraguan Government are Nicaraguans. They may argue that they are financed by the U.S. Government, but the nationality of the combatants has never been in question. The problem, of course, is Nicaraguan. It has had regional proportions for several reasons: due to the use of territory, due to armed incursions, due to the refugee problem, and due to foreign aid to both sides. In other words, on one side there are aid and advisers from a foreign totalitarian power—the Soviet Union—and the subversion it generates in Central America. On the other side, there is the defensive policy of the U.S. Government, which is trying to stabilize the democracies, trying to prevent the Soviet bloc from gaining a beachhead in Central America, and preventing the Soviet Union from continuing its international expansionist policy.

[Reporter] Is Honduras' foreign policy a reflection of U.S. policy?

[Lopez Contreras] The association of our foreign policy with U.S. policy is due to Honduran interests. In other words, we are interested in having democratically-elected governments in Central America, as is the case in Honduras. This is the only way we can guarantee that the armies being built up in Central America will not be used to harass our countries.

[Reporter] Could the president ask President Reagan to take in, to accept the serious problems that could be posed by the counterrevolution deployed in Honduras?

[Lopez Contreras] I think it is somewhat premature to speak of such a situation. The counterrevolutionaries are at the negotiating table. They are at the negotiating table under international scrutiny and with the mediation of Cardinal Obando y Bravo. To consider a relocation or displacement of the counterrevolution, whether to the United States or to a country outside Central America, means one would be predicting that the contras will be defeated; or, this means one would be predicting that radical groups would not join the Nicaraguan political process if an agreement is reached for a cease-fire and the democratization of the Sandinist regime.

[Reporter] In your opinion, what strength or weaknesses does the decision of the U.S. Congress give Esquipulas II?

[Lopez Contreras] That is very difficult to perceive, for there is no specific answer to that. In fact, it is a subject of intense debate in the United States. The White House believes the contras and U.S. aid put decisive military pressure on Nicaragua to allow full democracy. At this time, however, the Democratic majority in the House has come out against aid, saying it is not necessary and that the Nicaraguan Government could even use it as a pretext to reject democratization, by arguing that it is under attack from the counterrevolution. One thing is clear: Those who voted to end aid assume the responsibility of not allowing these countries to fall prey to international communism.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, international dispatches claim that after denying the presence of the contras in Honduras for so long, you have now admitted it in news conferences. Can you explain this?

[Lopez Contreras] Well, I think the presence of the contras and the counterrevolution's use of Honduran territory has not been denied for several years.

[Reporter] Does the government approve of it?

[Lopez Contreras] No, in no way. I have often emphasized that the government has never tolerated, much less supported it. That is and has always been our policy.

[Reporter] The counterrevolution fights in Nicaragua, retreats, and enters Honduras?

[Lopez Contreras] The counterrevolution, and it is characterized as such in Esquipulas II, the counterrevolution and the government, pardon me, and the Nicaraguan FMLN [as heard] also fight in El Salvador and then retreat to Honduras for refuge. That is what we are trying to avoid: having Honduran territory be used as a refuge. We must try to find the internal causes in our neighboring countries, because Honduras cannot become an international solution for problems that should be solved at the domestic or international level.

[Reporter] That is why the Honduran Government through the president says that what it seeks is to democratize the Sandinist government, to get the problem out of Honduras.

[Lopez Contreras] Yes, that is correct. We feel the effects of the domestic problems of our neighboring countries.

[Reporter] Apparently, what has failed has been President Reagan's request in Washington to obtain contra aid. Do you forsee a possible failure of Honduran foreign policy as a result of this?

[Lopez Contreras] No, not at all. Our foreign policy is not based on the counterrevolution. Honduras' policy is based upon extricating itself from the external... [corrects himself] internal problems of neighboring states.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, has this been done?

[Lopez Contreras] Yes, to a great extent. At this time, internal negotiations between the Nicaraguan Government and the counterrevolutionaries, and negotiations between the FMLN and the Salvadoran Government are being emphasized.

[Reporter] Do you think the dialogue between the Sandinists and the counterrevolution that began in Costa Rica can be a palliative, although not a solution in itself?

[Lopez Contreras] We hope that there they will be able to find what has been characterized as the solution to the Central American problem. In other words, national reconciliation, which implies laying down arms and integrating opposition forces into the political process, as well as the return of refugees.

[Reporter] To conclude, what is Honduras' current foreign policy following the vote of the U.S. Senate?

[Lopez Contreras] Honduras maintains that the most advisable thing would be for—through internal dialogue in both Nicaragua and El Salvador—national reconciliation to be achieved with the laying down of arms, to allow for a peaceful, political, democratic popular process, with the return of refugees to their respective countries.

[Reporter] The Sandinist government accuses us of being interventionists. What is your opinion of that?

[Lopez Contreras] Well, they have to justify their domestic policies. I can tell you one thing: The problem of 100,000 Nicaraguan refugees is not the result of Honduran intervention.

Nicaragua

FSLN, Contra Talks 'Confirmed' for 18 Feb

PA101944 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1849 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 10 Feb (DPA)—Nicaraguan Ambassador to Guatemala Ricardo Zambrana today confirmed that representatives of the Nicaraguan Government and the Nicaraguan Resistance will meet in Guatemala City on 18 February.

The meeting should have started today in Guatemala City, but it was postponed at the request of the "contras." The Resistance claimed it could not attend the meeting because it was reorganizing its cadres and because Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo would not be able to participate as mediator. [passage omitted]

Managua Cites UPI on Contra Withdrawal

PA101905 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] This is a report from San Jose, Costa Rica. A mercenary source has reported in Costa Rica that approximately 1,000 mercenaries have withdrawn to Costa Rican territory. UPI has reported that units that had been operating near the Costa Rican border have withdrawn due to their lack of a strong rearguard. The report adds that the counterrevolutionaries made this decision after the U.S. House of Representatives rejected President Reagan's request for financial support.

The UPI report includes statements by mercenary leaders who have noted that they cannot continue their activities against the Nicaraguan people without financial support from the U.S. Government.

Further on Masaya Antidraft Protests, Unrest

Official Blames U.S. Embassy

PA110330 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Report on interview with Pedro Hurtado, a leader of the 19 July Sandinist youth, by unidentified reporter; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Pedro Hurtado, a leader of the 19 July Sandinist Youth, has charged the U.S. Embassy in Managua with inspiring last night's provocation against the Masaya Sandinist Youth zonal organization. The opportunistic members of the opposition parties aligned with the right wing, as well as LA PRENSA's campaign for young men to refuse to report for military service, should also be held responsible for yesterday's events in Masaya.

Hurtado stated that the young men of Masaya, regardless of the reaction of the rightist parties that have manipulated the mothers' feelings, this afternoon will demonstrate their willingness to defend the revolution both militarily and politically. Hurtado, who is the Sandinist Youth secretary general, said this organization will reject any attempts to misrepresent the events surrounding the young men's entry into active military service. This is because statistics show that the recruitment quota for 1987 was exceeded by 12 percent. He noted that on Saturday, 1,500 young men from Masaya will volunteer to defend the revolution. He also said the 19 July Sandinist Youth will file suit to recover damages suffered by the organization's quarters in Masaya.

[Begin recording] [Hurtado] We want to tell the Nicaraguan people, and particularly the young men, that at this difficult time when our homeland is being assaulted and patriots have rushed to defend it, there are again opportunists who wish to take advantage of the situation. Yesterday in Masaya, reactionaries who disagree with our living in a free, sovereign, and independent country—by manipulating the interests of Nicaraguan mothers, and in accordance with the policies of the U.S. Embassy and the newspaper of the reaction and the counterrevolution—initiated their machinery of lies and insults against our people. As a result, the people of Masaya demonstrated against this fresh rightist attempt against them. The people thus continue to maintain control of the streets.

The Sandinist Youth's zonal office in Masaya was attacked and damaged by rightists. Several Nicaraguan rightist parties amnestied by the people encouraged these attackers. The youth of Masaya responded by mobilizing to defend the homeland, like any patriotic youth. This will continue to be our response as of today, 9 February. Most of our young men will volunteer for military service. This is the best we can do to defend our achievements, our democratic liberties, our right to criticize, and our right to create the revolution. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What do you think about yesterday's political events?

[Hurtado] The Masaya events are the result of several reactionary sectors having been incited to violence. These sectors owe allegiance to the U.S. Embassy. It is not coincidental that in the past few days, the reactionary newspaper LA PRENSA has published several articles calling for the young people to resist recruitment, and even calling for violence. This is thus no mere coincidence. The rightist newspaper and the U.S. Embassy are responsible for what happened in Masaya yesterday.

[Reporter] The opposition parties have said they are not linked to the rightists—I mean, the U.S. Government. What can you tell us about this?

[Hurtado] They can say whatever they like. The Nicaraguan people, however, will not allow themselves to be deceived. The actions of the opposition parties show they are bound to the interests of the United States. These parties have advanced the very same arguments and made the same propositions as are conceived at the Pentagon and the White House. These things are concocted at the headquarters of U.S. imperialism. [end recording]

Demonstrators Renew Protests

PA101955 Paris AFP in Spanish 1818 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Masaya, Nicaragua, 10 Feb (AFP)—Sandinist police once again clashed with opposition groups in Masaya last night. Demonstrations against military service broke out in Masaya, 30 km south of Managua, on Monday night.

According to several witnesses, last night's incidents began when a group of approximately 40 persons burned old tires and shouted slogans against the Patriotic Military Service Law.

Approximately 200 antiriot police were deployed to the area where, according to witnesses, some demonstrators were arrested and others beaten.

The police likewise confiscated film taken by two television networks.

The correspondents protested the confiscation of their film, and the police promised to return it today.

In yesterday's issue, LA PRENSA emphasized that the recruitment of youths has turned into "a hunt."

The official radio stations have refrained from mentioning the incidents of last night, stressing only the demonstration the FSLN staged in Masaya.

Meanwhile, some independent radio stations gave very short reports on what had taken place, stating that the city "has been militarized."

The Nicaraguan Ministry of Interior has not issued a statement on these incidents, which have resulted in the arrest of 16 people.

50 Reportedly Arrested

PA110200 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2337 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Managua, 10 Feb (DPA)—According to official reports and statements by residents of Masaya, approximately 50 political activists who belong to Nicaraguan opposition parties and demonstrators who took part in the 8 and 9 February rallies in Masaya, 30 km from Managua, have been arrested.

The city of Masaya, which during the last 72 hours has lived in a state of agitation due to antigovernment demonstrations protesting the violent conscription of youths by the Nicaraguan police, seems to be relatively calm. Youths are being recruited to join the military.

Officials have not provided any information on the detainees or the charges being brought by tribunals for alleged violations of public order. A Masaya resident said that Army and police troops are stationed at the Masaya barracks while life continues normally in the city.

During the demonstrations, two vehicles were burned, the city police station was stoned, and banks and propaganda offices of a Sandinist youth organization that supports youths' conscription were damaged. According to the law, youths over 17 years old must serve 2 years of military service.

The government accuses Independent Liberal Party and Social Christian Party leaders of inciting violence "in accordance with U.S. orders" to provoke a revolt and justify a U.S. military intervention and the destruction of the Sandinist revolution.

The government also accused the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA of inciting violence in accordance with U.S. interests.

According to statements made by Masaya Government Delegate Federico Lopez, "the right-wing agitators" who promoted the demonstrations did not appear last night after the arrest of over 20 youths and the dispersal of approximately 100 demonstrators.

Simultaneously, the FSLN announced the mobilization of approximately 1,200 youths to the Military Patriotic Service (SPM). The SPM has strengthened the EPS in the defense of the revolution in clashes with the counterrevolutionary forces, which are trying to overthrow the government of President Daniel Ortega with the support of the United States.

City 'Practically Under Siege'

PA111446 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Due to the fact that much of the media has reported that political leaders of Masaya have not made statements because they have gone into hiding, we clarify that they have not come out to give statements due to the presence of the military, which has Masaya practically under siege. Full-scale repression has been unleashed in the Flower City while fearful residents watch, and citizens ask why this military deployment has taken place.

'Traitor' Pastora Said To Return in August

PA101347 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Traitor Eden Pastora has announced in San Jose, Costa Rica that he is ready to return to Nicaragua in August, to contest power with the Sandinist government in the 1990 elections.

Pastora said he plans to return to Nicaragua provided that the government fulfills its promises of democratization. He stated he will come to Managua to create a vast political movement to struggle against the revolution.

The cut-off of contra aid is the counterrevolution's Bay of Pigs, Pastora asserted, recalling the frustrated invasion of Cuba by the U.S. empire. The traitor noted: The disbanding of the contras has already begun, confirming what I have always said: Their leaders are merely CIA agents who travel with Nicaraguan passports.

Pastora said he will return at the head of a group of Nicaraguan exiles who will march from Costa Rica to Managua.

Ortega Says Contras 'Not Interested in Peace'

PM101241 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 2 Feb 88 p 12

[Anders Person report: "Ortega in Stockholm: The Contras Will Be Fought"]

[Excerpts] "If we cannot reach a negotiated settlement with the Contras, we will fight them until victory is won," Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said at a news conference in Stockholm late Sunday evening [31 January].

"The Contras are not interested in peace," Daniel Ortega stated. "They obey their masters in Washington. The reason that they turned up at all at the negotiating table in Costa Rica a couple of weeks ago was to buy time."

At the same time, there are signs of division within the Contras.

Last fall the movement was forced to make changes in its leadership to present a more democratic facade.

Other leaders have noted they are ready to return to Nicaragua to join the political opposition.

"The negotiations with the Contras concern a cease-fire," President Ortega stated. "If we achieve that goal, then the talks with our enemies are justified.

"There can never be any suggestion of political discussions with a group that does not have popular support in Nicaragua. They can exercise their opposition to the

government through the normal political channels. Then they would be welcome to return. We will take all necessary steps to ensure they are not harassed after their return."

Earlier in the evening, Daniel Ortega described the agreement by the Central American presidents last August as a historic event. Its significance lies in the fact that it is exclusively Central American.

Ortega said that the Contras are U.S. puppets without support in Nicaragua, and that the U.S. attitude toward the Contras is decisive for peace. [passage omitted]

When asked whether he believes Reagan will give the Contras continued secret support if Congress defeats his proposal, Ortega replied:

"That would go against all logic. Instead, that ought to lead Reagan to support a peaceful solution. But you cannot be certain. President Reagan is obsessed with Nicaragua. His attitude is one that goes far beyond ordinary political or ideological dimensions. It is a personal hatred of me and my country," Ortega stated.

"President Reagan had been hoping that the Contras would by now total 30,000 men. However, despite the fact they are generously paid in U.S. dollars, they only number 6,000," Ortega commented. "And, if we fail to attain a cease-fire and peace, then we will fight them until we win."

Last fall, the brother of the president, Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, spoke of expanding the Armed Forces to 600,000 men. Was this not a provocation that could challenge public opinion and undermine the peace efforts?

"Nicaragua is a small country with an army of 80,000. When there is peace, then we will reduce our army. What the defense minister was referring to was allowing peasants and workers to take up arms to defend their land and their jobs. It was not suggested that these should be regular soldiers, but rather a people's militia or a peasant army," Ortega stated.

President Ortega painted a very gloomy picture of the economic situation in Nicaragua:

"The situation is critical. There is a serious oil shortage, which means that the transportation system is not functioning satisfactorily. This in turn means that the coffee harvest cannot be gathered in as usual. Furthermore, the coffee is ready to be harvested earlier than normal.

"My trip to Europe has produced the desired results. Its aim was to strengthen public opinion in support of the work for peace in Central America, and here we have been successful," President Ortega noted.

Military Airport's Construction Reportedly Set

PA102220 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Feb 88 pp 1, 12

[Text] Reliable sources have told LA PRENSA there is a project to construct a military airport on Corn Island, with this airport instead being disguised as a facility for tourism.

The reports claim the airport's landing strip will be almost 3 km long and will be able to support 150,000 pounds per square inch.

The project will cost approximately 5 billion cordobas and will be constructed by the Maritime Works firm, under the supervision of the Ministry of Transportation.

Reports indicate the financial support for this expensive project is unknown, because the entire project is being maintained in absolute secrecy.

Panama

Noriega Speaks at Chiriqui on Southern Command

PA110434 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0313 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, FDP, at the Brisas Davidenas Restaurant in David, Chiriqui Province—live]

[Text] We have spoken with the people of San Blas Island; we spoke with San Miguelito leaders at a memorable meeting; we traveled to Veraguas, where guests from Herrera, Los Santos, and Cocle Provinces, and delegations from Chiriqui and Panama met; we visited Colon Province yesterday; and last night we met with the men and women of the Panamanian health sector.

Last night, we met with approximately 2,000 born leaders, and today we come to meet with our friends from Chiriqui. We are all speaking the same language. We are speaking in a language that responds with a determined, clear, virile, and loud voice to the most powerful country in the world.

We are speaking in a language that belongs to a people who will never, ever allow the Marines—who entered here in Chiriqui to resolve a cattle-rustling dispute—return to this province. [applause].

Elderly Chiriqui residents must recall that around 1920, the Marines stationed themselves in this province to resolve a problem involving cattle and land. They imposed their justice, a justice that is made in the U.S.A. [preceding four word phrase in English]. However, they will neither return to this province nor to any other Panamanian territory. [applause; crowd shouts indistinct slogans]

Although they use turncoats and those...[changes thought] who at certain times became first-class passengers—because the oligarchy acts that way—in Torrijos' plane to clean him out. Gabriel Lewis Galindo did this, and when he was told he wanted to sell Contadora Island, taking $2 million as a personal tip, he abandoned the government and became an enemy. [sentence as heard]

Like other great opportunists, he handled economic affairs, and now he no longer knows how those affairs are handled or how much he took with him. They want to look clean and unstained. This is the price these people pay when Torrijos took away political power, but not economic power, from them. We must say this. The Panamanian oligarchy was engraved there, and it continued handling and sucking economic resources, whether they were scholarships, accompanied passports [pasaportes acompanados], or whatever. The truth is that all those resources were in the hands of the oligarchy, and now they want to wash their hands. [crowd shouts indistinct slogans]

Gentlemen, we must also say this, because it is our reality, the historic reality about which the health sector leaders pointed out a mistake. The mistake was that when the Torrijos-Carter Treaty was signed, everyone, absolutely everyone—including the workers, the trade unions, and the popular organizations—thought the battle was over. They did not listen to Torrijos when he said: This is where I finish; the rest is up to you. The struggle is not over; the struggle continues.

I do not want to place the blame on anyone in particular. All of us are guilty of not fighting, of not organizing ourselves. What we did, instead, was to leave control in the hands of the traditional political parties. This is the result. This is the result when the economic powers, duly fattened, nourished, and protected, come back today to seek what they desire: the political power they lost in 1968. That is the real truth. [applause and slogans]

That would not be so bad if they wanted to gain power through the normal political mechanisms. But no; they want to take political power by using the hands of the U.S. establishment. They want to attain political power through the influence, power, and strength of the U.S. Administration. Political power is attained and will be attained through the popular vote; otherwise, it will never be reached. [applause].

Go on, fight your political battles! Fight your political battles! Everyone has known how to engage in politics here since 1904. We have many old political foxes here, many political foxes—and I believe there are many more in the opposition. [laughs] We respect those political foxes. But these foxes are also being misled; they are being made part of the plot; and they are trying to bind them—these old foxes—so that they do not use the political mechanisms to contest the political struggle through their respective parties.

It is not possible to fight against phantom organizations; it is not possible to fight against phantom services, against organizations where....[changes thought] Those who do not own enterprises are usually the ones who go on strike. Who has ever heard of managers striking?

There are, as I said before, political foxes in the opposition. We address those honest opposition political foxes, and we reiterate: The FDP will support the legal action of the electoral tribunal and the mechanisms which will determine that the next president of the Republic will be the one that the people voted for. [applause and slogans]

We respect Mario Galindo; we respect Ramirez [not further identified]; we respect many MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] members; we respect Carlos Ivan Zuniga; we respect Carlos Arellano Lennox; we respect many honest politicians who are confused; they want to confuse these politicians in the search for political scenarios. The only political scenario is the people at the polls; there is no other way here. There is no other way, and the FDP will not be found on any other road. You will find the FDP supporting the electoral machinery for 1989, the year of the presidential election according to the Constitution. [applause]

There is absolutely no doubt that all the events that have taken place here....[changes thought] This is for the benefit of the foreign correspondents who are here. Many of them, as I said yesterday, are not to blame; they do not speak Spanish, so they just take pictures, record things, take these to their editors, and then the editors twist everything around.

And that is also aggression against the Panamanian people [person in crowd shouts indistinct slogan]; that is a dirty psychological war against the Panamanian people. We appeal to the honesty of foreign newsmen present here; we appeal to the honesty of these newsmen, who see these people assembled here, to speak out with justice and truth, and not with lies as they have been so far.

Everytime they show film clips on television, they show old clips. Everytime they speak, they speak and show the enemy speaking but do not reveal the truth of this people. For example, here they want to play dumb and do not know what the Southern Commmand is now. No one knows what the Southern Command is now. [crowd chants slogans]

When middle-level officers, who are the guarantors of the generational turnover of the Defense Forces command, conducted a study, they concluded that the Southern Command's presence here makes us vulnerable and turns us into a target for enemies of the United States and of all its control south of the Rio Grande. [sentence as heard] There is no reason for us to have the same list of friends and enemies as the United States. Panama has its own list; Panama has its own friends and enemies. [applause]

They want to confuse international public opinion, as well as the American people, with whom we have no problems. We do not have any problems with the American people. The proof of this is that approximately 25,000 U.S. citizens, including civilian and military personnel, live here. Not even a stone or a banana peel from the banana companies has struck them or made them slip. [applause]

Therefore, the confusion and the disinformation is that they do not know what constitutes the Southern Command; now the Southern Command apparently does not exist. Now no one claims to be the father of this child.

There are two forces on Panamanian territory, and one was legally established by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. That is the one headquartered on military bases. The treaty states that on 31 December at 1200, uniformed soldiers will leave Panama. [applause] As a civilized country, we respect the treaty article that Torrijos and Carter signed, although the United States does not respect many other articles and although it violates many of the Torrijos-Carter provisions. As a civilized country, we respect that article.

After conducting a study, an evaluation, and for the sake of the security of the Panamanian state, we insist that the Southern Command, which has another general as its commander, depart this territory. [applause, slogans]

What is the Southern Command? The Southern Command constitutes a U.S. defense force within its own strategy to control all countries south of the Rio Grande. However, that is U.S. strategy. There is no reason for us to be subjected to any of the military mistakes that this military brain—which is imbedded in our territory and doubles the size of forces here by a ratio of 2 to 1 against a sovereign territory that has its own Defense Forces—might make. [applause]

Then, gentlemen...[changes thought]...well, Panama has grown. Millions are being spent to overthrow us, to try to overthrow us. Millions of propaganda leaflets. Consciences and men with midget-sized brains are also being bribed. [applause]. These are the men whom Torrijos described as paranoid anarchists. Gentlemen, imagine what would happen if the United States were afraid of Panama, if Panama cut off their water and energy. The ridiculous and desperate stands of certain officials and senators make our people grow in stature. Our people can then believe and demonstrate that they are correct. Why have those officials and senators been hitting this people so hard? I want the foreign reporters to relay this question. Why are these people, who are not anti-American, the target of acts of aggression and an economic cordon more severe than that inflicted on Cuba and Nicaragua? [applause]

Of course, two plus two make four. There is something here that they want. There is something here that they want. [repeats himself] And what do they want? They want the government they have planned to change before 1989 to sign an agreement permitting the permanence of military bases. They want a weak government, and they want weak men. They want men like Blandon to sign [applause] agreements for military bases that also constitute weak points in Panamanian security. It is here that the Defense Forces state that the U.S. military bases in Panama constitute an act of aggression, a historic failure, and that they are historically unnecessary for the development of the generation belonging to the year 2,000.

This is our military position. This assessment constitutes reality. There is fable by Aesop that concerns a frog and a glowworm. The glowworm glowed, and the frog got near it and stepped on it. The glowworm then asked the frog: Why do you step on me, considering that you are so big and that I have done nothing to you? The frog replied: I stepped on you because you glow. [applause] Gentlemen, Panama is like this. Our peasants are like this. Such are the Panamanian Indians, trade-union members, workers, teachers, nurses, doctors, and the common classes. They all glow in the nation, patriotically, with an awareness of their homeland and their destiny to be free. This is why we are being trampled upon, because we shine. [applause]

Panama, its Armed Forces, its men, leaders, and the politicians inclined to develop the country feel proud of having averted bloodshed in Central America. Nicaragua was not invaded because Panama said no. Blood was not shed in Nicaragua because Panama said no. This cost was high, but we paid for it in a Christian spirit, gentlemen. We are still paying for it in a Christian spirit. [applause] The Nicaraguan people and leaders know that we said no. And this did not happen now; they know we said no.

Why? Because Panama is also part of the Central American Isthmus, and because any bloodshed anywhere in Central America affects Panama. Proof of this is that there is a large number of foreigners here in Panama. They are an immigration bomb. They fled from their countries in desperation, and are seeking refuge in more peaceful countries such as Costa Rica and Panama.

Then, any action, reaction, struggle, bloodshed, and death anywhere in Central America affects Panama. For this reason, Panama assisted the struggle for peace. For this reason, Panama supported President Oscar Arias. He came here, and the people of Chiriqui know this. He came to the David Fair last year. He came here to speak with the Chiriqui people and the leaders of this nation, to seek support for the Arias Plan. We were the ones who got the Nicaraguans to sit down, talk, and support Oscar Arias' plan. [applause]

Had not Panama intervened, there would not have been any Arias plan. That is the truth, and we are very proud of it. We are proud of President Oscar Arias. We are proud of the plan, because it represented and reflected

the Contadora plan, which was another of the groups that the establishment [previous two words in English] said we had to withdraw from, because it set a bad example for the peoples of the Americas. We were told that Panama and Mexico had to withdraw from it because these two states were raising their voices too loud, thus preventing the United States from imposing its big-stick policy on Central America. [crowd shouts: "Long live Panama!"]

But, gentlemen, our struggle is here. It is here, for it is a domestic struggle. For this reason, we want the United States to leave the ring. We want the United States to get out of it and leave the Panamanians to solve their problem themselves. [applause]

Let the United States stop handling the Panamanian problem. Let it keep its hands off Panama, keep its hands off Panama. [repeats himself] Let the United States take all the traitors—we are thankful for that—but let it keep its hands off Panama. This is a domestic political struggle that only Panamanians can understand.

Gentlemen, in this path of demands, in which these people in power....[changes thought] Never before in the years of our nation's history since 1903 has there been such a large number of peasants and Chiriqui people in the public administration. These peasants and these people of Chiriqui will never turn the fate of our fatherland over to a foreign power, a proconsul, or to a bunch of traitors. [applause]

There is an armed force here that is more experienced. It is an armed force that is different; it is not an armed force that on behalf of the oligarchy and on orders from the oligarchy would set up camp at the banana plantations to kill Luis Delgado and Dionisio Arrocha. That will never happen again, gentlemen. [applause]

Now, these men of the banana plantations are our brothers, and they will have our rifles whenever it is necessary. [applause]

Thus, summing up and concluding this speech, I want to say that this struggle, though hard and dirty, possesses a great dignity: the dignity of the conscience of the people of Chiriqui, Veraguas, Herrera, Cocle, Los Santos, Panama, Colon, and Darien. These people say: Not a single step backward, damnit! [applause]

10 Feb Communique on U.S. Southcom Presence

PA101930 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1819 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Communique issued by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry on 10 February]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry wishes to inform citizens and the international community that the request made by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] midlevel commanders and supported by General Manuel Antonio Noriega with regard to the withdrawal of the Southern Command [Southcom] has been intentionally misrepresented and its contents intentionally evaded by U.S. Government officials, who are attempting to give the impression it is a rejection of the U.S. military presence authorized by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

The presence of U.S. air, sea, and ground forces in the Republic of Panama is authorized by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties for the specific purposes stipulated in those treaties, which are limited to the protection and defense of the Panama Canal, while the Southern Command as a military presence surpasses those purposes.

The Southern Command has carried out and is carrying out activities and operations completely unrelated to the security of the canal;they are, by nature, military operations which are part of a worldwide strategy of defending the national security of the United States of America, as the United States defines it, as well as objectives that are solely U.S. foreign policy goals.

It is not the U.S. Forces in the territory of the Republic of Panama whose mission is specifically to protect and defend the canal, or the presence, activities, or operations of those Forces, to which the FDP midlevel commanders and the commander in chief referred. The concern of the Panamanian Government, which has been revealed in a respectful request from the Panamanian military to the president of the Republic, His Excellency Eric Arturo Delvalle, stems from the presence within the nation of an offensive war organization of continental scope which has nothing to do with the protection and defense of the canal, and which violates Article 2 of the Neutrality Treaty, guaranteeing that the Isthmus of Panama will not be a target for retaliation in any armed conflict among other nations of the world. In addition, it violates several other provisions of that same treaty, and of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 and its annexed agreements, which at no point refer to the presence of the Southern Command on national territory, and which do not contain agreements for military bases, like those the United States has in other parts of the world.

The Foreign Minister hereby clarifies the official position of the Government of the Republic of Panama, and warns the citizens and the international community that any statements by Panamanian citizens, whether or not they are former officials, which contradict this position should be taken as opportunistic declarations designed to serve interests hostile to the Panamanian nation.

It is obvious that in their statements, U.S. Government officials do not say that the Southern Command is authorized by the treaties. Instead, they answer questions about the rejection of the Southern Command by saying that the presence of U.S. Armed Forces is authorized, because they know quite well that the Southern Command is not, and that it could only be authorized by a new, unilateral version of the 1977 treaties, drafted by

the invisible, falsifying International Treaties Section of the Army, which today is taking brutal action against the Panamanian people's determination to achieve national sovereignty.

In this new chapter of the game of half-truths and distortions in the monstrous campaign of lies against Panama, skillfully disseminated through the media that it [the United States] controls or that are under its influence, the Foreign Ministry denounces this attempt to confuse the U.S. people and the entire world, in order to lay the groundwork and manipulate thoughts in preparation for more serious actions in the aggression that has been organized against the Republic of Panama.

Panama, 10 February 1988

Abadia Says Ties With U.S. at 'Low Point'

PA101844 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias has said that relations with the United States are at a low point, although not as bad as some would wish.

[Begin Abadia recording—in progress]...not as good as as we would like, or as bad as others would wish, but they are at a weak point, a low point, and we are not at fault. All we are trying to do—and we will continue to do it and to do it successfully—is to defend our sovereignty, our dignity, and our determination to forge our own destiny. That is all we are doing. If that is a sin, we will eternally be sinners, because we will never give up the struggle. Therefore, we are not particularly at fault for what is happening, and the Americans know it.

We hope that after the Americans have assessed what is happening in Panama and have evaluated the events of the last 7 or 8 months, they will realize that Panama is Panama, and that it will not bend to any force, any power, or any pressure.

We are experiencing very serious economic problems, very serious fiscal problems, but it is not the government that is experiencing this; it is the Panamanian people. [end recording]

Students Reportedly Demonstrating, Teargassed

PA101844 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1829 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] This is a recommendation to our listeners on the basis of a report we have received: Drivers should avoid passing by the Panama University area because tear gas is being used there.

Apparently there is a student demonstration there to protest the current situation, and [police] are using tear gas.

500 Students Said Involved

PA102014 Paris AFP in Spanish 1945 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Panama City, 10 Feb (AFP)—Approximately 500 University of Panama students today set up barricades and burned tires during an antigovernment protest. No arrests or injuries have been reported.

The demonstration was called by the University Students' Opposition Coordinating Board, a member of the Civic Crusade. Since June 1987, this organization has been staging violent protests to demand the resignation of "strongman" General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

The university students set up barricades and burned tires near the Armed Forces Directorate. Gen Noriega was at the directorate, which caused approximately 70 "Dobermans" to be deployed.

However, at noon today, the police had taken no action against the students, having limited themselves to observing what the students were doing.

Government Minister on Media Censorship

PA110100 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2320 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Interview with Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon by unidentified reporter on 10 February—recorded]

[Text] [Chiari] We are talking in general terms about the Liberal Party's participation in government and the policy we currently follow, plus the support we will give tomorrow to the birthday party being prepared for General Noriega.

[Reporter] Minister, certain news media have been closed down. What is the justification for this action? Will these news media be opened again in the near future? Will the measure be rescinded?

[Chiari] We have been asked to reconsider the measure; there are even some appeals. We believe the measure was adopted in strict abidance with the law. The media had been warned this could happen, but a solution is always possible. I never say never. The news media might be reopened, but we must establish the rules of the game. The news media must be more respectful and more serious when they issue a report. The people should be able to listen...[changes thought] The reports should be issued in a responsible way; the people should hear the truth; and everyone should have the right to tell the truth.

[Reporter] Referring to reports from abroad, what are your recommendations to the media and the journalists concerning the handling of that information?

[Chiari] Everyone should know if he can broadcast the information, but he must also assume the responsibility.

[Reporter] What about censorship?

[Chiari] There is no censorship; there is no censorship right now in the television stations, radio stations, or press.

[Reporter] Will there be any censorship?

[Chiari] There has been no censorship, and there will be none for the time being.

Paredes Says Noriega Has 'Psychic Deformities'
PA110244 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0114 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Panama, 10 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Retired General Ruben Dario Paredes, former chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] said today that Manuel Antonio Noriega is suffering from "psychic deformities" that lead him to seek a confrontation between Panama and the United States.

Paredes was FDP commander from 1982 to 1983. In 1984, he retired to run for president. He told ACAN-EFE that Noriega has these "psychic deformities" because he has controlled the military and state espionage service for 16 years.

He added that these "deformities" have led Noriega to seek a "confrontation" with the United States by claiming the charges against him are part of a plot against Panama.

The Panamanian military chief was indicted last week by U.S. judicial authorities for extortion and alleged links with international drug trafficking.

The former military man said the communique issued 8 February by the mid-level FDP commanders and officers, requesting the departure of the Panama-based Southern Command, is still another product of Noriega's "deformities."

He said Noriega's request, made through his subordinates, that President Eric Arturo Delvalle order the Southern Command to leave the country is "ridiculous and far-fetched."

In the same communique, the midlevel commanders also requested Paredes be stripped of his retired status because he "sullied the honor" of the armed organization. Paredes said he was not worried about this.

Paredes added that Noriega is holding on to power because "he is afraid of dying" and his only safeguards are "the 20,000 FDP rifles."

"Noriega is a prisoner of his own power," and he has become "an individual who has no place to go." Moreover, he realizes that as soon as he is no longer chief of the Army, "he will be worthless," Paredes said.

Paredes has become one of Gen Noriega's harshest critics. Today he said Noriega has been the worst chief the Army has ever had, and the only one responsible for the political, social, and economic crisis the country has been undergoing for the past 8 months.

Noriega, on his part, said 8 February that Paredes' only problem is that he has not learned to conjugate the past tense of the verb "I am."

PRD Leaders Express Support for Noriega
PA101920 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Luis Navas, PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] legislator for Colon Province, and PRD President Romulo Escobar Betancourt expressed their opinions regarding the political situation in Panama. Both repudiated the campaign of unfounded allegations against General Noriega, and expressed the need for all the progressive forces to unite and confront the aggression.

[Begin Navas recording] I reaffirm once again that our country is on the path to decolonization. Consequently, during the next 11 years, there will be increased attacks by the most reactionary U.S. sectors to prevent our country from recovering sovereignty over every inch of its territory violated by the 1903 treaty. Torrijos, with a calendar for decolonization, promoted this effort by the entire Panamanian nation.

However, no country in the world, no nation in the world receives its sovereignty as a gift. I believe that as long as the United States is directed by those warmongering sectors, which are enemies of development, it will not freely surrender the canal or faithfully fulfill the treaties. On the contrary, this will require the perseverance of all Panamanians, it will require the solidarity of all the nations, and, of course, it will require all the unity within and outside Panama that can be forged by patriots in the country, in Latin America, and the entire world, to make the United States faithfully fulfill the treaties and stop intervening in our foreign affairs, twisting the Panamanian nation's sovereign destiny. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Romulo Escobar Betancourt, president of the PRD Executive Committee, expressed his opinion of the support General Manuel Antonio Noriega has been receiving throughout the country.

[Begin Escobar Betancourt recording] The support has been warm, spontaneous, and very warm-hearted. Such support expresses the happiness of a people who, after Torrijos wrote the glorious pages of our nationalist struggle, have seen Noriega—in an hour of great danger

for our country—raise the flag and swear to continue that policy until the year 2000, when the U.S. troops will definitely leave our territory. [end recording]

Official on Coup Possibility

PA111610 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 11 Feb 88 p 22

[Text] PRD Vice President Alfredo Macharaviaya yesterday stated that the sectors which oppose the present government are provoking a coup d'etat. However, he noted his political organization does not believe this is the solution to Panama's current crisis.

The PRD "is not planning a coup d'etat. We want to hold elections in 1989, and, if the opposition should attain a majority, we will turn over power to them," the progovernment politician said.

Macharaviaya noted there must be guarantees for the honesty of the next elections so that those who win the majority of votes can assume office.

Alfredo Macharaviaya added that the PRD "wants to maintain the democratic system. We do not want a coup, but they are forcing us to stage one."

However, it should be recalled that in 1985, the parties of the progovernment alliance UNADE [National Democratic Union] brought about the resignation of former President Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta.

PDC Leader Reacts to Noriega Speech

PA101943 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Feb 88 p 2-a

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), has told LA PRENSA that General Noriega's speech was saturated with "empty and demagogic" words.

Carefully analyzing the general's words, Arias Calderon said that while Noriega's show was being prepared Monday night, two more radio stations were being closed.

"If you compare these violations of human rights, of the Constitution, and of the laws with the alleged 'respect' that Gen Noriega said he feels for those of us who have always opposed him, and with the siren's song of holding elections with him still in power, you will find that the contradiction is scandalous."

The PDC spokesman said this contradiction shows we are faced with "empty, demagogic words and not with a sincere message."

Arias Calderon also added that the show's entire strategy consisted of having Noriega discredit his accusers without responding to the accusations, which is typical for "those who know they are guilty."

The PDC spokesman said that although during the speech Noriega had Panama's ambassador to the OAS at his side, he did not mention, even indirectly, the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission's resolution that referred to Noriega.

Arias Calderon explained that the commission found the Panamanian Government—"understood to be Noriega"—responsible for the murder of Hugo Spadafora and for failing to investigate the crime.

He did not mention the resolution—Arias Calderon said—because it was signed by jurists from Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, the United States, and Venezuela, who displayed great qualities by bearing witness.

Nevertheless, Arias Calderon said that in response to such a serious accusation "silence is no defense," because in response to such an accusation "silence is acceptance. On Monday Noriega was silent and Noriega accepted."

Arias Calderon said the speech was an effort to try to commit the FDP [Panamanian Defense Forces] midlevel command to Noriega's defense, so they will find it more difficult to fulfill the task the people expect of them: to give themselves a new professional and constitutional commander.

The PDC leader said the midlevel command was forced, as a means of intimidation, to harshly attack their former chief, General Paredes, retired, as a warning to all the other officers.

Arias Calderon said Gen Noriega behaved this way to evade the charges leveled against him by two U.S. federal courts.

Arias Calderon said Gen Noriega has showed that he has taken the charges seriously because he has retained three U.S. attorneys to defend himself, and "I hope the comptroller general will be able to guarantee that the attorneys will be paid from Noriega's pocket and not by the Panamanian Government or from FDP resources."

Arias Calderon also explained that the ranking officer holds three firsts in Panamanian history: the first is the violation of human rights, because Spadafora's murder is the worst in our political history.

The second first Calderon said—Noriega achieved through his abuse of the military. The third first he earned for being the Panamanian who has most dared to subordinate the Panamanian nationalist cause to "his obscure personal interests."

He wants to confuse—Arias Calderon said—the nationalist struggle in search of sovereignty of the canal with his personal fate. "No other Panamanian had dared to defile the flag by using it to cover such serious accusations."

Ricardo Arias Calderon said that when the general touches on the subject of the Southern Command and the bases, we can see that we are faced with "pure demagoguery." Who knows, he may be "displaying bravado as a threat to see if the pressure will be withdrawn in secret negotiations."

PDC Opposes 1989 Elections

PA111412 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The PDC does not support presidential elections in 1989. PDC Vice President Guillermo Cochez stated the following on this matter:

[Begin Cochez recording] No serious and responsible political party could consider trusting the offer of honest elections in 1989. I believe that to consider elections today, with the present political situation in the country and the chaotic state of national institutions, would display little seriousness and even less responsibility on the part of a political leader of the type that I am trying to be, and on the part of a party like the PDC. The PDC is continuously seeking a national image and organization. [end recording]

Business Leader on Plans for General Strike

PA101615 Panama City EXTRA in Spanish 10 Feb 88 p 22

[Text] Business leader Carlos Gonzalez De La Lastra said today that the Civic Crusade is still working on organizing a sit-down strike to force General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who has been characterized as an international criminal, from power.

Businesses, teachers' and doctors' associations, and the people in general are working for the "Grand National Paralysis" to demand that the president remove Gen Noriega from his post and have Noriega face the charges against him at a U.S. court, which has credibiility and a legal system that guarantees fair trials, so the validity of the charges can be determined.

De La Lastra said organizing this strike has taken longer than had been anticipated. However, in the next few weeks, everyone will be ready for a general strike.

According to the Panamanian businessman, the country is experiencing grave social, political, and economic times because its executive branch does not govern the country and because there is evidence that the Defense Force is involved in activities that harm Panamanian society. This situation has made it necessary for the Panamanian people to call for, and support, a national strike.

Since October of last year, the country has faced a situation of terror that does not permit honest Panamanians to publicly demonstrate to demand rectifications, De La Lastra said. He noted that the Panamanian Army is trying to stay in power not to govern in a satisfactory way or to resolve problems but to defend some personal interests.

The former president of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives touched on the subject of the proclamation issued by the Defense Force's midlevel officers by noting that the country has an unbearable situation and that Noriega is completely isolated from all Panamanian social, political, and economic forces. He added that the general has led the country into an extremely dangerous international isolation that will negatively affect all the levels of society.

De La Lastra said: "With this proclamation, Noriega is trying to lead us to a confrontation with the United States, just like the Argentine Army did with the Malvinas crisis."

The business leader noted: To govern, arms are not enough; it is necessary to have resources that the government does not have right now. One such resource, De La Lastra said, is the support of the Panamanian people, who want liberty, justice, and democracy.

Civic Crusade Sends Letter to Noriega

PA101655 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Feb 88 p 12-a

["Open Letter" to General Manuel Antonio Noriega; date, place of issue not given]

[Text] With countless accusations against you, of which an indictment by Florida federal courts stands-out, you again brandish the worn-out argument of false nationalism and that it is all a Yankee plot to keep control of the canal beyond the year 2000.

Owing to the respect that honest units of the Armed Forces and the Panamanian people deserve, instead of insisting upon reckless statements and baseless arguments to counter the accusations against you, face the citizens and explain the following:

1. Most of the charges now being made in the Florida courts are not new. They are the same that Dr Hugo Spadafora has been making for years and was murdered for. Recently, the OAS Human Rights Commission condemned the Panamanian Government for the death of Dr Spadafora. Is the OAS then also an accomplice of this alleged plot against you?

2. We notice with irony that you have hired lawyers to defend you in Florida. We are sure that there you will receive the benefits of due process of law: The very same right you systematically destroy here. As the saying goes, if you have nothing to fear, why do you not emulate Ahmed Paredes and personally appear before the Florida courts?

3. This is a small country where everyone knows who is who. Your lifestyle, the luxurious homes you own in different parts of the country, your extravagant gifts and handouts, and your frequent luxurious trips with friends and family cannot be paid for with the salary of a Defense Forces officer. If it is true that you are a dedicated military man and patriot, where do you get the money to keep up the lifestyle that no other Panamanian can afford?

Gen Noriega, once and for all, disrobe all the false patriotism and speak the truth. National interest and the country's dignity are above the personal problems of a single Panamanian. If you are able, we demand a reply. Not a reply to us, but to the people and troops.

National Civic Crusade

PALA Leader on Noriega's Anti-U.S. Stand

PA101738 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 10 Feb 88 p 4

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Labor Party [PALA]President Juan Medrano has said the following regarding General Manuel Antonio Noriega's speech on a radio and television network:

[Passage omitted] I think Gen Noriega's remarks have had a very positive effect both here and abroad. We feel we have obtained a clear picture and received guidance because he was able to point out many facts and developments. This will help all of us get a clearer picture of the foreign aggression against our country, of the political terrorism, and of this new variety of terrorism; i.e., the indictment terrorism invented by the United States.

However, these things no longer frighten us and this is the great benefit of Gen Noriega's speech. He helped all of us reaffirm our confidence in our institutions.

We really regret that some U.S. politicians are resorting to these repulsive methods in the pursuit of their foreign policy. They are openly adhering to the concept—which we find repugnant—that the end justifies the means. These sectors have institutionalized blackmail, wrongdoing, and bribery as ways of achieving their economic, political, and strategic objectives.

We would say that the weakening of their international clout, the failure of their plans in Central America and other areas, and their obvious failure to understand the aspirations of developing peoples have led them to desperation and constant irritability. Naturally, it is difficult to think amid such confusion and that is why they are making so many mistakes in their relations with our people.

Gen Noriega said they demanded that he attack Nicaragua so they could enter it after the Panamanians did but our government avoided falling into this trap and opted to continue working with those who seek peace in the region rather than with those who sought to make us change our course; namely, the messengers of violence and war, the very well-known Oliver North, John Poindexter, and sadly famous senators like Jesse Helms, John Kerry, and D'Amato, who have been the devil's trio of Central American policy.

We are firmly convinced that we must firmly confront this terrorism, this U.S. aggression, because what is at stake here is not a man but our country's interests and future. For this reason, it is necessary that we all identify with this struggle. This is a national struggle that should be free of political partisanship because what is at stake is our people's interests and well-being.

Commentary Decries Accusations Against Noriega

PA101638 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 88

["In-Depth Commentary"]

[Text] In last night's address to the country [by Panama Defense Forces Commander in Chief Manuel Noriega] about the U.S. conspiracy to destroy the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and impose a puppet government that would agree to revise the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, three things stand out. The first is the FDP's position of accepting any agreement that the political parties may reach so as to provide the fullest guarantees for the 1989 elections. The second involves the FDP's views, which were outlined in a previous statement by the midlevel commanders, regarding the continued presence of the U.S. Army's Southern Command in Panama. The third thing is the calm and sequential narration of the policy applied by Washington to all of our country's leaders who take a strong stance to demand our sovereignty.

Juan Antonio Ramon Cantera was murdered; his wife was slandered and humiliated. The Torrijos family has been accused of drug trafficking. These are two irrefutable examples. [Noriega's] calm words and organization of ideas gave the impression of a man who has not lost his serenity or who changes his mind in the face of an avalanche of charges, economic pressures, and the most abject intrigues against him as well as against the institution under his command. These developments and hard times test the depth of a leader who cannot be created through propaganda and the support of any foreign power. Instead, this leader is created by fighting for his country and facing the consequences of his personal decisions.

Very few military leaders would have projected their image with such a firm nationalistic conviction as Manuel Antonio Noriega has. Many would have fled. Others, moved by ambition, would have knelt before the U.S. imperialist arrogance. The historic process that began in October 1968 and gave Panama international status under the courage and tenacity of Omar Torrijos Herrera almost became diluted with the change of command and political vacuum that were caused by his death. However, this process is rooted more than ever before in the nation's conscience.

If the United States were worried about Panama, it would have considered Panama another country in which to impose a democracy copied in its own image, and it would have promulgated the death sentence to end its sad privilege of being the world's primary market for drugs. All these actions, taken in a cowardly manner and with dastardly intentions, confirm [the U.S. realization] that Latin America is no longer a group of colonies or the backyard that provides raw materials for the U.S. empire.

We have chosen the historic path of emancipation. Although we want to be friends with the U.S. people, no judicial side show or economic pressure will move us away from that commitment to independence and sovereignty.

Labor Minister on 1988 Unemployment Situation

PA110105 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Statements by Labor Minister Jorge Federico Lee on 9 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] This will be the first year Panama will have experienced true unemployment. Until now, unemployment only affected those looking for their first job: college graduates, women, and youths over 15. This is what we call the secondary labor market.

However, the current unemployment situation and the lack of investment, particularly in the construction industry and activities related to construction, will force employee layoffs that will result in mass unemployment. These layoffs will definitely affect the primary job market and will cause Panama all sorts of problems.

Argentina

Caridi Removes Joint Staff Operations Chief

PY102149 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2120 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb (DYN)—According to reliable sources, Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi today relieved of his command, and demanded the retirement of, General Heriberto Justo Auel, chief of Operations of the Joint Staff.

The event took place at noon today during a meeting between the two military commanders in Caridi's office, in the Libertador Building.

Both the Army and the Defense Ministry have remained silent about the affair, which has been linked directly to the aftermath of the aborted January revolt.

According to sources, Auel refused to ask for retirement as demanded by Caridi and, after leaving the latter's office, Auel presumably made some remarks that were considered unfounded by the commander of the Army.

After this had occurred, Gen Caridi presumably ordered an inquiry (equivalent to an administrative inquiry in the civilian world) that will include the testimony of the officers present during the incident.

General Views Army Situation

PY110215 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0014 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb (DYN)—General Heriberto Auel, who was fired today, stated tonight that the situation in the Army has become "anarchic and dangerous," not only for the institution "but also for the country due to the confrontation between two groups that are seeking their own revenge," according to personal friends who visited the officer at his home.

Auel categorically refused to comment on his being placed on the list of unassigned officers, and he made it known that he would talk to the press.

Moreover, friends and relatives who left his house, located in Palermo, summed up what they defined as the line of thought of the high-ranking officer after talking with him.

According to the story of one of those friends, the officer's position is as follows:

I am not going to participate in the confrontation between trouble-making factions that are following a path leading only to the self-destruction of the Army.

"On the contrary, what I am trying to achieve is the monolithic unity and professionalism of the Army so that the system can correct and maintain itself even when we experience critical political and economic situations or face the possibility of confronting such situations in the future.

"On the other hand, I am convinced that if the possibility of that unity, harmony, and understanding within the Army is achieved, then my goal will not be difficult to obtain.

"What we have here as a result of the Easter Week confrontation is the appearance of trouble-making groups that are fighting each other. One of them is impatiently breaking up the Army's chain of command and its discipline, and the other, in the name of discipline, is creating an anarchic situation in seeking its own revenge. This is dangerous because it is not only affecting the Army, but the people as well.

"The conclusion of all this is that the situation in the Army has not improved. On the contrary, it has become more serious. It has become anarchic and dangerous.

Auel's friends have termed as "false" the reports about an alleged lack of respect on the part of the officer toward Army Chief of Staff General Jose Caridi.

Auel's friends stated that "when he left Caridi's office, the aide-de-camp and several officers who had been Auel's students greeted him, and the following dialogue took place:

"How are you general?

"Well, I have been put on the unassigned list.

"What, you have no assignment?

"Well, yes, they asked me to retire and because I did not agree, I go on the list of unassigned officers.

"But, why?

"Well, it was something I was expecting.

The friends added that "this was all the general said; therefore, it is false if they accuse him of indiscipline."

The relatives and friends also rejected and termed as "tendentious and slanderous" information indicating Auel had any type of commitment to or with the Easter Week group.

In this respect they said that when the general heard this information over the radio, he said in a vexed way: "I only tried to stop these two trouble-making groups. And I am being sent home because I tried to stop them, as I did not support either of the two groups, and because I am unorthodox.

Army Officer Goes Underground, Supports Rico

PY102039 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1140 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb (NA)—Army Captain Martin Sanchez Zinny has said, in a handwritten letter datelined Mendoza, that he is going underground and considers himself "free to continue the struggle against the Marxist enemy, wherever he might be, and whatever he may use for cover."

The letter was published today by the daily AMBITO FINANCIERO, which stressed that the officer's decision was confirmed at the Ministry of Defense last night. These sources expressed the belief Capt Sanchez is somehow linked to Aldo Rico's rebellion.

In the letter Sanchez Zinny accuses "the present military leadership" of being incapable "of facing the revolutionary war" and of "seeking to purge the Army by separating officers who have demonstrated they are clear thinkers and capable leaders."

For these and other attitudes, such as "the destruction of the Malvinas spirit" [espiritu de desmalvinizacion], Sanchez Zinny holds President Raul Alfonsin responsible [words indistinct] and states he does not recognize his command.

Sanchez adds that he "fully supports those chiefs who, from captivity, from hiding, or from out in the open, clearly personify the true possibility of an all-out war against the revolutionary enemy."

Sanchez Zinny then says: "For these reasons, and through this act, I recognize Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico as commander of the Argentine Army in resistance."

CNEA Denies FRG Supplied Uranium

PY091127 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0202 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Feb (TELAM)—The National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) tonight denied reports from the FRG to the effect that that country supplied Argentina with enriched uranium for military purposes in 1985.

In response to a report published in the FRG daily WESER-KURIER on 6 February, which was picked up by an international news agency, the CNEA released a communique explaining that in 1985 the CNEA purchased from the FRG 2 tons of .85-percent enriched uranium for the fabrication of lightly enriched fuel elements for testing in the Atucha 1 Nuclear Plant.

The communique adds that the purchase was made to conduct a program that includes the future use of urnaium aimed at obtaining greater output from the fuel, which means increasing the energy value of the country's uranium reserves.

The communique also says that the enriched uranium was purchased because of the need to make the first fuel elements for the initial stage of the program before the uranium enrichment plant of Pilcaniyeu, Rio Negro Province, went into commercial operation.

The communique concludes by saying that the enriched uranium was purchased with the export permit of the FRG Government and under the safeguards of the IAEA, headquartered in Vienna.

Bolivia

Official Views Problems in Fighting Drugs

PY082103 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0256 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] La Paz, 7 Feb (EFE)—Jorge Alderete, the head of the Social Defense Under Secretariat, an Interior Ministry under secretariat, today reported that an intellignece service has been created in order to provide more efficient help in the fight against drug trafficking.

Alderete believes the lack of an intelligence service is one of the problems involved in the fight against drug trafficking, "because we depend entirely on the DEA."

According to Alderete, the team being organized will go into action in the very near future.

The under secretary also acknowledged that another major shortcoming exists in the investigators who interrogate persons who have been arrested.

"There have been clear signs of a lack of morality" among the investigators, "because it is in this sector that the situation is continually distorted in favor of the drug traffickers."

Alderete said that a lack of resources is one of the problems faced by his secretariat, but he said his sector's budget has been submitted for approval within the framework of the nation's overall budget.

He said the informers, "some of whom belong to the organization and others of whom are freelancers," cannot be paid without resources. "These people have to be paid because they give us leads on drug traffickers, drugs, and other important aspects."

Alderete also explained that his under secretariat is working under "really lamentable" conditions, but he said that it is a question of overcoming these bad points with a will to work.

Directorate Reports Coca Eradication Figures

PY052131 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The National Directorate of Coca Eradication (DIRECO) reported that 1,368 hectares of coca had been eradicated from the Chapare region as of mid-January. There are 43,725 hectares of coca in the area, with an approximate production of 113,800 tons per year and an average of 1.1 hectares per farmer.

In the Yungas there are 25,700 hectares that produce 23,000 tons annually. In Yapacani, Santa Cruz, there are 750 hectares with a production of 1,800 tons. The total annual production of coca leaves is approximately 138,600 tons.

The eradication enforced thus far has reduced by 3,500 tons the volume of coca leaves available to the market.

The highest average production rate of coca leaves is found in Chapare, which has a 2.6-ton yield per hectare, followed by 2.5 tons in Santa Cruz, and only 0.896 tons in the Yungas, in La Paz department.

In Chapare, DIRECO has registered 2,462 growers who own 8,612 hectares. Between November 1985 and January 1988, 1,368 hectares of coca were eradicated, while only 308 hectares were eradicated between November 1985 and August 1987 in this area.

The Villa Nueva Union, which has 87 growers, decided to eradicate 77 of its 109 hectares of coca, a reduction of 70.39 percent.

Pipeline 'Mishap' Cuts Exports to Argentina

PY101800 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The Bolivian Government yesterday decided to suspend gas exports to Argentina due to a rupture in the line. The rupture occurred yesterday at the (Pananti) Pass, 40 km from Yacuiba. This is the first mishap in the 16 years gas has been exported. Some 48 hours will be needed to repair this line. Emergency crews, heavy equipment, material, engineers, and other experts are already on their way to the accident site.

According to a communique, this accident forces us to adopt emergency measures in all fields providing gas to this pipeline, so as not to shut down the wells and reduce production. It has been decided to increase stocks and to burn what is left.

This accident will not affect the regular supply of fuel to the national market.

Brazil

Sarney, Ministers Study U.S. Commercial Ties

PY102255 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] President Sarney has just ended a 2-hour meeting with seven ministers with whom he discussed U.S.-Brazilian commercial relations. One of the decisions adopted during the meeting was to undertake a study to determine the strategy the government should implement in the event the United States adopts commercial retaliatory measures against Brazilian products.

Minister on U.S. 'Threats'

PY111151 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] President Jose Sarney yesterday held a meeting with seven ministers to discuss U.S. Government threats concerning sanctions on Brazilian imports.

The meeting was held at Planalto Palace, and it was attended by the ministers of finance, planning, and science and technology; the chiefs of the civilian and military households; the Foreign Ministry secretary general; and the SNI chief.

Science and Technology Minister Luiz Henrique said the U.S. threats harm the country more than the sanctions themselves. Brazil, he said, is trying to obtain clarification from the U.S. Government through diplomatic channels, because the ban on the U.S. company Microsoft has already been lifted.

Minister Luiz Henrique explained the Brazilian position if the U.S. continues to harm trade with Brazil.

[Begin recording] [Henrique] The two issues are inseparable for Brazilians.

[Unidentified reporter] Will Minister Mailson da Nobrega explain during his visit to the United States this weekend the Brazilian position regarding this issue?

[Henrique] Minister Mailson da Nobrega will travel to negotiate the foreign debt, but he will say the two issues are inseparable. [end recording]

Minister Luiz Henrique believes that U.S. trade retaliations are disproportionate in comparison to the original conflict, because it was resolved once the National Council for Information Science and Automation, CONIN, suspended the prohibition that banned the importation of electronic equipment from the U.S. company Microsoft.

Joint Statement, Accords Signed With Colombia

PY100305 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Report from Bogota by (Delia Chesinha)]

[Text] Brazil and Colombia have released a joint statement and signed several accords on the last day of President Jose Sarney's visit to Bogota.

President Jose Sarney and his Colombian counterpart, Virgilio Barco, signed eight technical and commercial cooperation accords and a joint statement.

In the statement, the two presidents expressed concern about the persistence of apartheid in South Africa. They also expressed concern about the Middle East conflict and voiced support for the calling of a UN international peace conference for the region. The two presidents also analyzed the efforts to achieve peace and stability in Central America.

The two presidents stated that the foreign debt and the region's economic difficulties are factors that jeopardize political stability and the consolidation of democracy in Latin America.

The two countries denounced the serious imbalances that persist in the world economy and the adoption of protectionist measures by industrialized countries.

President Sarney delivered a speech in which he emphasized the discriminatory treatment adopted by [as heard] the developing countries.

[Begin Sarney recording] Today we are experiencing a worldwide situation that has been aggravated by the restrictions and discriminatory treatment against the developing countries.

The developing countries' legitimate demands for a new economic order built upon equality and justice have been met by indifference and lack of sensitivity on the part of the industrialized nations. These difficulties obviously call for joint cooperation. I am not referring to the crucial foreign debt issue alone, but also to the broad problems involving the position of Latin America in the international economy, problems that have jeopardized our ability to develop. Such problems include protectionism and other practices we confront in our commerce with the countries of the Northern Hemisphere, like the instability of raw material prices, the reduction of the flow of investment—which is essential for our growth—and the threat that the region can be excluded from the current technological revolution.

Latin America, a continent in which each nation has its own particular features, has been the scene of stormy situations, which will be overcome only if we work with dedication and confidence in the potential of our cooperation.

As I said at the Acapulco presidential summit, I am convinced that we should not expect the solution to come from abroad. We must struggle with our own forces. [end recording]

Presidents Sarney and Barco vowed to set in motion a regional campaign against abject poverty and stressed their commitment to the struggle against drug trafficking.

The commercial and technical cooperation agreements involve oil, railways, cooperatives, coal, mineral resources in border areas, promotion of commerce, animal health, and space cooperation. In the oil sector, the accord will promote cooperation between the two state oil companies, Petrobras and Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise].

Brazil will sell oil to Colombia, which, through the Leticia thermal plant, will supply electric power to the neighboring Brazilian city of Tabatinga. In the railway sector, the two countries will promote the restoration and modernization of the Colombian railway system. Farmers in the border area will benefit from an accord to be implemented by Brazil's SENACOOP [National Secretariat for Cooperative Action—Secretaria Nacional de Cooperativismo] and by the Colombian federation of coffee growers.

Concerning the balance of trade surplus favoring Brazil, the Brazilian Government has committed itself to increasing its coal purchases from 150,000 tons to 300,000 tons annually. The two countries will cooperate in prospecting for and developing mineral resources in the border areas. The space cooperation accord aims at promoting cooperation in the areas of space research and technology, especially in the sectors of meteorology and remote sensing.

President Sarney is now hosting a news conference at the Tequendama Hotel, where he is staying.

President's Trips Abroad To Be Limited

PY102334 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] President Sarney will not make trips abroad lasting more than 2 days until after proceedings of the National Constituent Assembly are over. This was announced by Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre in Bogota. He said President Sarney should visit Bolivia in May, but his trips to the Soviet Union, India, Japan, the FRG, and France will depend upon completion of the Constituent Assembly's proceedings.

Regarding Sarney's trip to Colombia, Minister Sodre noted the importance of the trade agreement signed between the two countries, including the purchase of coal. According to Abreu Sodre, this will increase Colombian exports to Brazil, which show a deficit at this time.

Abreu Sodre Interviewed on Foreign Policy

PY081455 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Feb 88 p 8

[Interview with Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre by Luis Erlanger and Leticia Borges—date and place not given]

[Text] O GLOBO: What is your opinion of the Brazilian decision to adopt a foreign policy that is aimed at the Third World?

Sodre: President Sarney has instructed us to emphasize our foreign policy toward developing countries and to promote relations with the developing world in terms of commerce and culture. A significant step in this regard has been the creation of the Brazil-Uruguay-Argentina tripartite alliance, which promotes cooperation and integration in all areas. We have promoted our relations with almost all Latin American nations. A result of this process is the reestablishment of our relations with Cuba, which were discontinued years ago. Today, Brazil is present—either by rendering services or with its trade— in the major African and Middle Eastern nations. Our relations with Israel and with the Arab countries are good.

O GLOBO: Some people say this choice shows it is better to reign in hell than to serve in heaven...

Sodre: No, because this has not had any effect whatsoever on our relations with the developed countries, and this is actually good. In the case of the United States, it is only natural that there should be conflicts between Brazil and that country. If Brazil had not grown, there would not have been, for example, the negotiations—which I expect will succeed—on the computer sector and on our foreign debt. The same thing happens with the EEC countries and with Japan.

O GLOBO: Would it not be better for Brazil to adopt a debt renegotiation strategy jointly with the other indebted countries?

Sodre: You cannot isolate yourself in a club of indebted countries. We should join the clubs of indebted nations but we cannot ignore the club of creditor nations.

O GLOBO: But wouldn't it be more interesting if Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay adopted a joint position?

Sodre: Obviously. For this purpose we have a multilateral organization, the Cartagena Agreement, which deals with problems such as the debt problem. Now, the way each debtor country handles its own negotiations is another matter. Each nation has different possibilities, the terms of the debts are different, and so are the interests rates and spreads. Despite the unique features of each particular case, there is a common strategy, which is to maintain the development of debtor nations and to prevent the impoverishment of their people. Each debtor has its own tactics, but there is a single strategy.

O GLOBO: There has been a certain euphoria regarding the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba. The lack of concrete results from this rapprochement, however, including the lack of concrete results from Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca's visit to Brazil, seem to be cooling off the relations between the two countries.

Sodre: There was really a euphoria when diplomatic relations with Cuba were reestablished. There was a certain suspense regarding the island's mystical figure of its strongman, Fidel Castro, and that caused the interest. We are now going back to reality. We must investigate what to buy from them and what to sell them. In some fields, we will even compete. Therefore, I would not say the enthusiasm has cooled. The fact is that bilateral negotiations do not have the warm charm of rapprochement. The relations between the two nations have simply returned to normal. Our relations are now similar to our relations with Ecuador, Argentina, and Uruguay.

O GLOBO: Wasn't the Brazilian decision to start negotiating with the Third World the result of a lack of alternatives? As a result of Brazil's decision to declare a moratorium on its debts, the creditor countries closed their doors to Brazil, President Sarney had to cancel several trips, including visits to France and the GDR, and during his visit to the United States, President Sarney was severely scolded by President Reagan...

Sodre: First of all, I must tell you that President Reagan did not scold President Sarney because he has no authority to do so. Only a congress has authority to scold a president. This is what the U.S. Congress has been doing to President Reagan, and what the Brazilian Congress could do to President Sarney. Anyhow, I believe Sarney's meeting with Reagan in Washington was very friendly and yielded very good results. Naturally, the negotiations on problems that cannot easily yield immediate solutions—such as the foreign debt and the market restrictions in the field of information science—have not had positive results yet. This is why I say there were no winners or losers in the Sarney-Reagan talks.

O GLOBO: Our ambassador to the United States, Marcilio Marques Moreira, was warned by the U.S. Department of State against the sale of weapons to Libya, and there have never been so many conflicts with the United States as now.

Sodre: If we were an insignficant country, if we were the last car of a train being pulled by the U.S. locomotive, there would have been no conflicts. Our growth is bothering the United States now, and it will start bothering Japan and the EEC, just as the growth of big countries bothers other big countries. It would be useless, however, to wrap myself in the Brazilian flag and to

decide to declare war on the United States in defense of our rights in the field of information science, because I would thus prevent our making new business deals with the purchaser of 32 percent of all Brazilian exports.

O GLOBO: Is the Libyan problem solved, then?

Sodre: Of course it is.

O GLOBO: The Brazilian companies spread rumors that the report on the sale of weapons to Libya leaked from Itamaraty, and that it was aimed at creating more means to bargain with the United States in the field of information science.

Sodre: Itamaraty's role regarding the weapons is limited to merely conveying information. The companies negotiating the weapons sales are private companies, and Itamaraty merely grants them certificates to negotiate abroad. If the sales of weapons were not finalized, it is simply because the private companies did not reach any agreement with the purchasing country.

O GLOBO: Several countries have criticized the fact that Itamaraty does not demand the certification of the final recipient of the weapons.

Sodre: One of the conditions that Itamaraty establishes is that the weapons should not be transferred.

O GLOBO: The primaries for the presidential elections in the United States begin Monday. Is it better for the Third World to negotiate with a Republican or a Democrat?

Sodre: To us it is the same. Our relations are with a government and not with a party. I can have my own preferences, but as a diplomat, I cannot disclose my feelings.

O GLOBO: Can the promotion of relations with the USSR be considered as an answer to the disagreement with the United States?

Sodre: Brazil maintains a universalist foreign policy. Brazil wants to have relations with all countries.

O GLOBO: Does the Brazilian domestic situation jeopardize President Sarney's busy agenda of trips for this year?

Sodre: It is well known that Brazil is going through a period that requires the permanent presence of the president, especially because he presides over the Constituent Assembly. Whenever the president leaves, he discontinues, or at least harms, the work of the assembly, delaying what has already been delayed. This has to some extent prevented the president from accepting the invitations that he receives.

O GLOBO: Can Brazil play a more active role in the search for a solution to the Central American conflict?

Sodre: We returned to the UN Security Council after 20 years, and we will play a major role. Based on this, countries that never sought to contact us are trying to talk with us in order to learn about our position. We will become more involved in the conflicts. Concerning Central America, we are members of the Contadora Support Group. We are not shy, and I am even tired because I have gone to Central America about 20 times to engage in dialogues.

O GLOBO: Your ministry, however, did not even comment on President Reagan's defeat in Congress, when his request for aid to the contras was not granted.

Sodre: It is a domestic issue, but I will comment on it. Any decision to prevent war and promote peace deserves applause. The U.S. congressional decision can help the reaching of an accord, which is nearer than it was last year. There are people who believe the contras also help, in their own way, to achieving peace. I do not agree.

O GLOBO: What position will Brazil take concerning the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel? Does the Brazilian Government plan to grant diplomatic status to the PLO office?

Sodre: We advocate a peaceful solution for the Middle East. As for the PLO, it does not exist as an organization. [sentence as published]. We have relations with the PLO. The creation of the Palestinian state is necessary. Yet there is no reason to modify the current status of the office.

New Treasury Secretary Sets Deficit Target

PY100013 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Feb 88 p 28

[Excerpt] After being installed as the new secretary of the national treasury yesterday, Paulo Cesar Ximenes stated that the new target figure for the government's public deficit will be somewhere between 3.5 and 4 percent. Ximenes added that the government will restrict administrative expenditures "as soon as possible" in order to achieve this objective.

Andrea Calabi's replacement said that starting this week experts from the Treasury Secretariat and the Budget and Finance Secretariat of the Planning Ministry will make an in-depth study of the programs prepared by one of the five groups created at the beginning of the year to draw up these programs. This group gave a broad outline of the areas in which expenditures can be cut.

Ximenes also stated that he will keep the technical staff of the Treasury Secretariat, and that he will continue Calabi's work. He stressed that he will finish the work of consolidation and institutionalization of the Treasury Secretariat. [passage omitted]

Army Steps In To Control Minas Railway Strike

PY101350 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0335 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 9 Feb (EFE)—Brazilian Army troops occupied several railway stations this afternoon to neutralize the railway workers strike, which entered its 9th day today. To date losses have been estimated at $12.5 million.

Following an order by Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves, the Army occupied several railway stations in the state of Minas Gerais to facilitate the transport of iron ore.

The 85,000 railway workers who are on strike are demanding a 50-percent wage increase, while the Transportation Ministry is only willing to grant an 18- percent hike.

A conciliatory session in the labor court failed to bring the two sides together this afternoon, and the transportation minister announced that tomorrow he will withdraw his offer and will issue the first lists of fired workers.

Last-minute reports show that the Rio de Janeiro railway system was totally paralyzed, affecting more than 2 million passengers. There were partial railway strikes in the states of Sao Paulo, Mato Grosso do Sul, and Minas Gerais.

Chile

U.S. State Department Report 'Under Study'

PY101907 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] According to Chilean Foreign Ministry Spokesman Carlos Ducci, the Chilean Foreign Ministry has received the annual report drafted by the U.S. State Department on the situation of several countries, Chile among them.

Ducci said that the U.S. Presidency is obliged to issue this State Department report once a year. He added: This is a report that includes all countries throughout the world. In the specific case of Chile, the Foreign Ministry acknowledges that the report was received, and it is now under study.

U.S. Request in Letelier Case Stalled

PY100038 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The Supreme Court has held up the letter of request sent by a U.S. court seeking the testimony of General Hector Orozco until page 24 of that document is received by the Supreme Court.

According to the report, the Supreme Court has asked the Foreign Ministry to send it the missing page of the letter of request, which states that Gen Orozco is an indispensable witness in Case (RON) 78-0367, involving the investigation of the murders of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his U.S. secretary, Ronni Moffit.

The Supreme Court has decided not to submit the document to the prosecutor until it gets page 24, which mistakenly seems not to have been included.

The Foreign Ministry has stressed that the letter of request was submitted to it without that page by the U.S. Embassy in Santiago. The ministry also indicates that it has explained the situation to the embassy, which has asked for a copy of the page from the federal court in Washington that sent the letter of request to Chile. [passage omitted]

PDC Leader on Plebiscite, Pinochet Candidacy

PY082044 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0304 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Santiago, 7 Feb (EFE)—Gutemberg Martinez, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has said it is no longer clear General Augusto Pinochet can be the candidate in this year's plebiscite.

In a statement carried in the local press today, the PDC secretary general said he feels this way because "the regime is sinking in despair, since it is not gaining."

A poll recently published in an independent publication shows that if a plebiscite for Pinochet were held tomorrow, only 18.6 percent of the electorate would cast a yes vote. By contrast, 45.4 percent of the respondents were for the no vote, 12.4 percent were undecided, and 10.2 percent failed to respond.

According to Gutemberg Martinez, "the opposition has a government program that represents an alternative solution to the problems of Chileans, and this program plus the grand agreement to vote no at the plebiscite constitute the best bet to defeat the government, both politically and electorally."

Under the Constitution now in force, the commanders of the Army, Navy, and Air Force and the Carabineros director general have to choose the presidential candidate before the end of this year.

Although no date has yet been set for the plebiscite, the Government Junta asserts it will be held sometime between 11 September and 11 December 1988.

Socialist Leader on Importance of 'No' Vote

PY082151 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Socialist leader Ricardo Nunez said during a news conference that the leftist parties that do not support the campaign for the no option in the plebiscite are deeply mistaken. The campaign for the no option represents the greatest national agreement ever reached in our country, he added.

[Begin Nunez recording] We do not rule out the possibility that soon we six socialist parties will start discussing a joint opposition political platform. But I do not really mean only six parties. We think the 13 or 14 political parties that recently signed an agreement supporting the no option in the plebiscite will soon adopt a defined position regarding this issue, just as we have done. [end recording]

Ricardo Nunez expressed regret that member parties of the United Left [IU] like the PCCh do not support the campaign for the no option in the plebiscite.

[Begin Nunez recording] If those parties believe it would mean giving in to the dictatorship or helping perpetuate Pinochet in power, they are deeply mistaken. Our campaign represents the greatest national agreement reached among political forces in the last 14 years of dictatorship.

We will demonstrate to the country that we represent the majority of the people, that we will win in the plebiscite, and, what is more, that we will carry out all the political reforms Chile needs to attain democracy, stability, social justice, and equality.

If those parties insist on implementing a different policy—which at any rate would not be feasible—the people themselves will respond to it, thus proving whether it is effective. [end recording]

Ricardo Nunez said his party appreciates the fact that several IU parties signed the agreement for the no option in the plebiscite. This demonstrates their will to find a speedy solution to attain democracy and to participate in a social mobilization to overthrow General Pinochet, Nunez said.

Codelco Head on Use of Funds, Dismissals

PY091451 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] General Fernando Hormazabal, new executive president of Codelco Chile, has emphatically denied that some of the funds obtained through the sale of Chilean copper are used to finance government propaganda. Gen Hormazabal said the current government administers the funds generated by these sales most efficiently and openly. He added that the funds are now used in productive projects.

Gen Hormazabal said those who used the funds in other types of projects made mistakes that do not even deserve comment. [recorded passage indistinct]

After being installed as Codelco president, Gen Hormazabal denied having plans to dismiss workers of this state-owned company. He affirmed that there will be no dismissals, because the number of workers is sufficient and adequate.

PDC 'Militant' Youths Detained, Released

PY080123 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2255 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Santiago, 7 Feb (EFE)—Fifty-five militant youths of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] were released this afternoon. They had been detained on 6 February by the police at a seaside resort, where they were commemorating the death 1 year ago of a young party militant.

A PDC youth spokesman stated that the 55 youths were released without having to pay the usual amount for bail.

Approximately 200 members of the PDC youth on 6 February organized an event on the beach at La Rocas de Santo Domingo, a seaside resort located 110 km west of Santiago.

Mario Martinez, a leader at the University of Santiago, was found dead there 1 year ago. He had disappeared after leaving his house a few days previously under strange circumstances that have not yet been cleared up.

The Martinez family lawyers have found evidence that ultra-rightist individuals had some role in the incident. These individuals spy on students at the University of Santiago, which has been intervened for the past 14 years by the military regime.

Police Arrest 3 Alleged FPMR Terrorists

PY061334 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Three members of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front operating in the neighborhood of La Bandera in Santiago have been arrested.

Investigative Police arrested the three individuals, who are allegedly responsible for many crimes against private and public property, totaling 40 million pesos.

They were identified as Jorge Enrique Villanueva Perez; Ignacio Antonio Pardo Ramirez, 24; and Patricia Rosana Capueto Paez. They were all members of a terrorist cell led by four armed extremists who are still at large. The three individuals have been placed at the disposal of the courts.

Communist's Request To Live in Country Rejected

PY091912 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The judges of Santiago's First Appellate Court have unanimously rejected the request made by former Communist Deputy Luis Guastavino.

Guastavino, who has been living clandestinely in Chile, requested permission to remain in the country legally. The First Appellate Court comprises Judges (Alberto Noguera); (Alberto Ceno), who rejected the petition; and lawyer Alberto Esteres.

Communist Deputy Guastavino came to Santiago a few months ago, when the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] convoked a meeting of foreign congressmen. The meeting, which was held almost unnoticed, later produced open interference in Chilean domestic affairs.

On the occasion of the meeting, the PDC leaders agreed to the clandestine presence in the country of some six Chilean congressmen, among them Guastavino, and considered them allies who shared their political ideas.

Ambassador Cited on Antarctic Convention

PY110009 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Feb 88 p C-3

[Excerpt] Chile will condition its support for the international convention on exploration of mineral resources in the Antarctic on the protection of Chile's vital interests in that frozen continent.

This announcement was made by Ambassador Fernando Zegers Santa Cruz, who headed the Chilean delegation to a meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, to discuss such matters.

He explained that the convention should abide by the Antarctic Treaty and protect Chile's sovereign rights in a practical way, in addition to safeguarding the Antarctic ecosystem and the ecosystems related to it.

Santa Cruz said: "These three conditions must be met in order for Chile to support a convention."

He said any exploitation of mineral resources in Antarctica cannot be carried out before the year 2000.

Santa Cruz said our country will be in a privileged position only 2 and 1/2 hours away from its continental territory and it will wield veto powers on any system that might be formed and enjoy other rights related to its sovereignty claim. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Brazilian President Arrives for Visit

PA091728 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Report by Albeiro Ichavarria]

[Text] We have distinguished visitors in Bogota today. Brazilian President Jose Sarney is visiting Colombia. Welcome, President Sarney.

President Sarney was officially received at the Narino Presidential Palace by President Virgilio Barco Vargas this morning. The two presidents talked about trade exchange, the development of the Amazon area, and common problems. The new protocol by which President Barco did not greet his Brazilian counterpart at the airport marked the beginning of a new phase in Colombian-Brazilian relations.

The purpose of President Sarney's 3-day visit to Colombia is to sign nine agreements within the framework of Latin American unity.

[Begin Sarney recording] We all need to make a great effort so Latin America can complete its program for regional unity. [end recording]

The agreements are to include the construction of an oil refinery, the sale of gold and coal, and the expansion of the Leticia, Mitu, and Puerto Enirida Airports.

This morning, President Jose Sarney received due military honors at the Narino Palace. Sarney, who became Brazilian President in 1985 after the sudden death of former President Tancredo Neves, has had to face the economic problems caused by his country's foreign debt, the largest in Latin America. In addition to signing several agreements, the two presidents will discuss the foreign debt problem.

Newsmen were not allowed into the military ceremony at the Narino Palace. International accredited correspondents and accredited, local newsmen were surprised to see how the Narino Palace officials allowed the chickens [pollos] [as heard] in.

Cubans Reportedly Active in FARC, ELN

PA080008 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 30 Jan 88 p 5

[Article by Agustin Uhia: "Cuban Attacks on Oil Pipelines"]

[Text] Intelligence sources and a lot of evidence—including published statements by young guerrilla deserters—prove that Cubans not only operate within different FARC and ELN [National Liberation Army] fronts, but also have attacked oil pipelines and installations.

Several deserters report that Cubans are working as advisers and instructors within the guerrilla fronts. They also report that Cubans manage "academies" in Vaupes and the Yari plains designed to advise FARC leadership units. They also report there is an amphibious base in these areas. Recent reports indicate these Cubans are incorporated into several ELN commando units stationed in northern Colombia. The Cubans not only advise the ELN, but also direct offensives against oil installations. They have devised strategies—similiar to those used by their counterparts in El Salvador—to dynamite roads, blow up bridges and electrical pylons, and destabilize Colombia's economy by damaging the oil pipeline and Ecopetrol's equipment.

It is hard to calculate damage over the past 2 years, because it effects the environment by contaminating enormous tracts of crop land with oil (it will be 100 years before this land can be used again), contaminating water for drinking and for crops, and killing wildlife.

Each guerrilla group reportedly has members trained to use and place antipersonnel mines manufactured in the USSR and East Germany and brought into Colombia by the Cubans.

ELN Sabotages Cano Limon-Covenas Pipeline

PA102028 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] The pumping of oil in the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline only lasted 14 hours before Army of National Liberation [ELN] guerrillas blew it up again. A very powerful explosion ruptured the pipeline at Oru in Norte de Santander Department.

Ecuador

Democratic Party To Support Candidate Borja

PA032312 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The Ecuadoran Democratic Party ratified in Guayaquil yesterday its unyielding decision to back Rodrigo Borja's presidential candidacy. Borja, a Democratic Left member, will participate in the second round of elections against Abdala Bucaram of the Ecuadoran Roldosist Party.

Democratic Party National Director Luis Piana said his party is proud and pleased to help strengthen the country's democracy through its support for Borja, because Borja guarantees political stability, social peace, and national unity.

Parties Seeking Alliances for Elections

PA070359 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] While the Democratic Left [ID] is calling for the formation of a government of national agreement to face the national crisis, the Roldosists are contacting other center-left and leftist groups, ignoring the right.

The two leaders who will face each other in the May runoff elections have made statements on their plans for when they are in power. Rodrigo Borja of the ID spoke in Guayaquil and Bucaram spoke in Quito.

Borja, the winner of last Sunday's elections, said the government of national agreement must be comprised of businessmen, workers, and the state to be able to resolve the crisis.

Borja said his campaign for the runoff elections will be similar to the first election; that is,it will be a clean campaign with fundamental proposals that respect the people. He said he is pleased with Sunday's election results. He described his victory as national and complete. He noted he won in 17 of Ecuador's 20 provinces while his rival won in only 2 provinces.

Borja said he will not get rid of the economic measures proposed on 11 August 1986. He said these measures will be reviewed and the ones that best suit the country will be kept.

In Quito, Abdala Bucaram thanked the people of the capital for the backing that, according to him, they gave him in the first round of elections. He said he was surprised by the election results in Pichincha, where the negligence and corruption of the government was punished.

Bucaram once again said he wants to debate Borja. He noted that the debate must be publicly televised before the people vote. He also said his political party is contacting political parties that have been left out of the runoff elections. He said talks are taking place with center-left and Marxist-left movements. We are refusing to contact the right, Bucaram clearly stated.

Paraguay

Archbishopric Issues Declaration on Church Role

PY081749 Asuncion LA TARDE in Spanish 6 Feb 88 p 7

[Text] The Asuncion Archbishopric has released a communique explaining that "the church is not the instrument of any political party, and no political party is an instrument of the church." It then points out that "this is not a play on words, but a categorical answer to the worn-out accusation, made with or without the intention of coufounding people, that the Church meddles in politics."

The communique further states: "The church will continue to judge, to denounce, and to condemn all kinds of injustice, violence, and corruption regardless of where it occurs, because this is its mission: To be the voice of those who have no voice and the face of those who have no face.

"The church of Jesus Christ in the world must preach the Gospel that is doctrine and moral; the true Catholic knows the doctrine and practices it."

The Archbishopric communique also points out that "without intending to lecture, we will try to clarify some ideas so that the people will not be deceived."

Politics [subhead]

"Politics is the art and science of governing a nation. To govern is to serve, to create the common good with the participation of everyone. It consists of putting within the reach of each and every citizen the possibility of attain well-being and peace. Under a government that is alienated from the people, that possibility is only within the reach of privileged families, groups, or parties."

Political Party [subhead]

"It represents fundamental politics in practice. A party, whether or not it is in power, practices politics. The existence and activities of opposition parties do not always mean anarchy, subversion, or communism. Freedom of expression and opinion, the freedom to judge and denounce with due respect for the rights of third parties, is natural and inviolable. No doctrine of a political party can be imposed as a national doctrine because the doctrine of a political party is by definition a party's doctrine. Dictatorships are outlawed (National Constitution, Article 40)."

Mission of the Catholic Church [subhead]

"The church, when it denounces the deviations, servitude, and oppression of which men are victims, is being loyal to its mission. When it opposes attempts to institute a form of social life where God is absent, whether by conscious denial or by guilty negligence, the church is being loyal to its mission. Therefore, those who affirm that 'the church meddles in politics' when it struggles against injustice, violence, and corruption and for the dignity of the human being are right. Those who, ignoring the mission of the church, think that 'the church meddles in politics' are wrong. Those who say and publicize that 'the church meddles in politics,' meaning partisan politics and knowing that this is not right, are lying. Finally, the church is not an instrument of any political party, and no party is an instrument of the church. The church harbors no worldly ambition whatsoever. It only hopes to continue, under guidance from the Spirit, the mission of Jesus Christ, who came to the world to give testimony of the truth."

Opposition Holds 'Lightning Demonstration'

PY102038 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] A "lightning demonstration" was held at the corner of Montevideo and Eduardo Victor Haedo Streets in Asuncion at 1000 this morning. The event was organized by the Free Elections National Coordinating Committee and consisted of a short march interrupting traffic, and appeals to people not to participate in next Sunday's elections. At the time of the demonstration, a strong police detachment was waiting near the Antequera monument, where the event had originally been scheduled to take place. A similar demonstration, organized by the Colorado Popular Movement, was staged in the center of the city.

Capt Ortigoza Reportedly Under House Arrest

PY090048 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish 0005 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Live report from a mobile unit by (Celso Velazquez)]

[Text] We have just been authorized by the police to circulate, and we are now driving near the residence of Captain Modesto Napoleon Ortigoza. Approximately 20 policemen are still guarding Ortigoza's residence and have cordoned off the entire block. All reporters have now been authorized to move. Unfortunately, we cannot get to Ortigoza's house but we can circulate freely in the surrounding area.

We repeat that Capt Ortigoza is already in his house, hopefully completely free.

News Conference Called

PY091437 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish 1137 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpt] A news conference is taking place at this moment in the office of lawyer Miguel Abdon Saguier, of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party. The objective of this news conference is to report on the situation of Captain Modesto Napoleon Ortigoza. All members of the Paraguayan news media and foreign reporters who have come to cover the 14 February elections are participating in the news conference.

The news conference has been called by lawyers Miguel Abdon Saguier and Felino Amarilla, and Miss Mirta Ortigoza Mena [Capt Ortigoza's daughter]. The first to speak was Saguier, who introduced Miss Ortigoza.

[Begin Saguier recording] We have called this news conference to inform you of Capt Ortigoza's situation. He is still in custody. Right now he is under house arrest.

Capt Ortigoza's daughter, as well as all his family members, are making all possible efforts to achieve Capt Ortigoza's full freedom. Miss Ortigoza will read a statement in this regard immediately after the news conference. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Suriname

Changes to Development Treaty Rejected

FL091915 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The Suriname Government hopes to begin negotiations shortly under resumption of the Development Cooperation Treaty which was unilaterally suspended by the Dutch Government 5 years ago. The Dutch Government hinted at internationalizing the aid but the Front government sees no reason for changing the pact. This was stated by Minister Grep [Transport, Trade and Industry] recently in Curacao where he held talks on the airline treaty between Suriname and that country. Minister Grep further added that Suriname is willing to negotiate in a different way with Holland but will not entertain any change in the treaty which had been agreed upon in 1975 when Suriname attained its independence.